1:Gurdon E-4, 5 (no date) 1907 AR7 Khasi AR7

643 almost complete autonomy in the management of their
101 local affairs. In the remainder, called the Jaintia Hills, which became British in 1835, it has been the wise policy of the Government to maintain the indigenous system of administration through officers named *dolois*, who preside over large areas of country with very little interference. All the British portion of the hills is what is called a "Scheduled District" under Acts XIV and XV of 1874, and legislation which may be inappropriate to the conditions of the people can be, and is, excluded from operation within it. In these circumstances the administration is carried on in a manner well calculated to win the confidence and attachment of the people, who have to bear few of the burdens which press upon the population elsewhere, and, with the peace and protection guaranteed by British rule, are able to develop their institutions upon indigenous lines. It is now more than forty years since any military operations have been necessary within the hills, and the advance of the district in prosperity and civilization during the last half-century has been very striking.

177 The first contact between the British and the
• 648 inhabitants of the Khasi Hills followed upon the
175 acquisition by the East India Company, in consequence of the grant of the *Diwānī* of Bengal in 1765, of the district of Sylhet. The Khasis were our neighbours on the north of that district, and to the north-east was the State of Jaintia,* ruled over by a chief of Khasi lineage, whose capital, Jaintiapur, was situated in the plain between the Surma river and the hills. Along this frontier the Khasis, though not averse from trade, and in possession of the quarries which furnished the chief

113 * The previous history of the Khasi State of Jaintia, so far as it can be traced, will be found related in Mr. E. A. Gait's *History of Assam* (1906), pp. 253-262.

supply of lime to deltaic Bengal, were also known as troublesome marauders, whose raids were a terror to the inhabitants of the plains. Captain R. B. Pemberton, in his Report on the Eastern Frontier (1835), mentions* an attack on Jaintia by a force under Major Henniker in 1774, supposed to have been made in retaliation for aggression by the Raja in Sylhet; and Robert Lindsay, who was Resident and Collector of Sylhet about 1778, has an interesting account of the hill tribes and the Raja of Jaintia in the lively narrative embodied in the "Lives of the Lindsays." † Lindsay, who made a large fortune by working the lime quarries and thus converting into cash the millions of cowries in which the land-revenue of Sylhet was paid, appears to have imagined that the Khasis, whom he calls "a tribe of independent Tartars," were in direct relations with China, and imported thence the silk cloths ‡ which they brought down for sale in the Sylhet markets. A line of forts was established along the foot of the hills to hold the mountaineers in check, and a Regulation, No. 1 of 1799, was passed declaring freedom of trade between them and Sylhet, but prohibiting the supply to them of arms and ammunition, and forbidding any one to pass the Company's frontier towards the hills with arms in his hands.

The outbreak of the first Burma War, in 1824, brought us into closer relations with the Raja of Jaintia, and in April of that year Mr. David Scott, the Governor-General's Agent on the frontier, marched through his territory from Sylhet to Assam, emerging at Raha on the Kalang river, in what is now the Nowgong district. This was the first occasion on which

* P. 211. † Vol. iii., p. 163, 177, &c.

‡ These cloths, which Lindsay calls "*moongadutties*," were really the produce of Assam, and were *dhutis* or waist-cloths of *muga* silk.

1:Gurdon E-4, 5 (no date) 1907 AR7 Khasi AR7

177 Europeans had entered the hill territory of the Khasi
648 tribes, and the account of the march, quoted in
175 Pemberton's Report,* is the earliest authentic information which we possess of the institutions of the Khasi race. Dr. Buchanan-Hamilton, who spent several years at the beginning of the 19th Century in collecting information regarding the people of Eastern India, during which he lived for some time at Goalpara in the Brahmaputra Valley, confused the Khasis with the
[101] Garos, and his descriptions apply only to the latter people. The name Garo, however, is still used by the inhabitants of Kamrup in speaking of their Khasi neighbours to the South, and Hamilton only followed the local usage. In 1826 Mr. David Scott, after the expulsion of the Burmese from Assam and the occupation of that province by the Company, entered the Khasi Hills in order to negotiate for the construction of a road through the territory of the Khasi *Siem* or Chief of Nongkhlāw, which should unite Sylhet with Gauhati. A treaty was concluded with the chief, and the construction of the road began. At Cherrapunji Mr. Scott built for himself a house on the plateau which, two years later, was acquired from the Siem by exchange for land in the plains, as the site of a sanitarium.† Everything seemed to promise well, when the peace was suddenly broken by an attack made, in April 1829, by the people of Nongkhlāw on the survey party engaged in laying out the road, resulting in the massacre of two British officers and between fifty and sixty natives. This led to a general confederacy of

* Pp. 218-220. It appears from p. 219 that Mr. Scott's report is responsible for the erroneous statement (often repeated) that the mountaineers "called by us Cossyahs, denominate themselves Khyee." This second name is in fact the pronunciation current in Sylhet of the word *Khāsi*, *h* being substituted for *s*, and should be written *Khāhi*.

† In Mr. Scott's time it was usual to speak of such a place as a "Sanatary."

1: Gurdon E-4, 5 (no date) 1907 AR7 Khasi AR7

most of the neighbouring chiefs to resist the British, and a long and harassing war, which was not brought to a close till 1833. Cherrapunji then became the head-quarters of the Sylhet Light Infantry, whose commandant was placed in political charge of the district, including the former dominions in the hills of the Raja of Jaintia, which he voluntarily relinquished in 1835 on the confiscation of his territory in the plains.

Cherrapunji, celebrated as the place which has the greatest measured rainfall on the globe, became a popular station, and the discovery of coal there, and at several other places in the hills, attracted to it many visitors, some of whom published accounts of the country and people. The first detailed description was apparently that of the Rev. W. Lish, a Baptist missionary, which appeared in a missionary journal in 1838. In 1840 Capt. Fisher, an officer of the Survey Department, published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal * an account which showed that the leading characteristics of the Khasi race had already been apprehended; he mentions the prevalence of matriarchy or mother-kinship, notes the absence of polyandry, except in so far as its place was taken by facile divorce, describes the religion as a worship of gods of valleys and hills, draws attention to the system of augury used to ascertain the will of the gods, and gives an account of the remarkable megalithic monuments which everywhere stud the higher plateaus. He also recognizes the fact that the Khasis as a race are totally distinct from the neighbouring hill tribes. In 1841 Mr. W. Robinson, Inspector of Schools in Assam, included an account of the Khasis in a volume on that province which was printed at Calcutta. In 1844 Lieut.

* Vol. ix., pp. 833 sqq.

15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

4. The Bhoi — occupy the northern slopes of the Khasi Hills, covered with thick semi-tropical forests; they practise jhum cultivation. 619
5. The Lyngam — inhabit the western border of the Khasi Hills, near the Garo Hills. They are said to be half-Khasi and half-Garo. Their economy is similar to that of the Bhoi.

These ecological and geographical differences correspond also to politico-historical differences. From the 16th century to 1835, eve of the annexation of the Jaintia Hills to the Khasi Hills under the British administration, the people of the Jaintia Hills formed part of the Hindu Jaintia kingdom, whose capital was Jaintiapur, on the border of the present East Pakistan and of the Jaintia Hills. The capital, at one time, was moved to Nortiang near Jowai in the heart of the Jaintia Hills. The Jaintia Hills were administrated by twelve governors. Such a highly developed economic system as based on wet rice cultivation, must have helped a great deal in forming a kingdom adjoining the plain. Through the common economy and political organization with the Hindus of the plain, the Hindu civilization of the Bengal plain penetrated deeply among the Jaintias, who are matrilineal hill dwellers. 175 648

On the other hand, the Khasi Hills have remained outside the histories of either Assam or Bengal. They were governed by a number of petty native chiefs: there were twenty-five chiefs ruling the Khasi Hills when the British colonial administration was established there. Most of these chiefs belonged to the Siem clan. The history of the Khasi Hills had been shrouded in darkness till the beginning of the 19th century, except for fragmentary stories such as Khasi raids on the Sylhet people.

The development of the upland Khasi Hills started with the establishment of its headquarters at Shillong in 1874. Since then the features of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills have changed a great deal. What was once a small Khasi hamlet, untouched by the light of history, has become nowadays a busy modern town where many Khasi intellectuals live, mixing with various outsiders who are engaged in official work or in business. The British administration opened the way to missionary activities, especially that of the Welsh Calvinist Methodists who set up a mission in the Hills in 1841, almost at the same time as British political influence began to make itself felt in the Khasi Hills. Along with the political penetration from Cherrapunjee (1833) to Shillong, missionaries established many institutions, including churches, schools and hospitals, etc. Christian education, bringing with it the promise of clerical positions, attracted young Khasi a great deal; and the majority of the upland Khasi have been converted to Christianity. They have become the modern intellectuals of their people. 178 648 797 [871] [743]

15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

Shella

Confederacy forms a more marked endogamous community, through being cut off geographically and economically from the rest of the Khasi, and socially from the neighbouring Hindu people.

The Economy and the People.

Shella lies along the upper part of the Shella River and stretches upwards along the steep slope, looking down towards the Bengal plain. The climate of this part of the hills is considered to be one of the worst in tropical India for human habitation. The Bengal plain, though warmer than this area, is considered more healthy. This border land is the zone of malaria, typhoid, black fever, cholera, etc. None of the Bengalee peasants dare to live in such an area. However, it is the most fertile for products such as betel-nuts, pan-leaves, oranges, bananas and pineapples, and it also produces limestone. These people seem to prefer to settle in this zone and to enjoy its prosperity, at the expense of human lives: every year, especially between March and September, the inhabitants suffer from various fevers and dysentry and other diseaes, many of the weaker facing death.

Before the Partition of India and Pakistan, the products of Shella were carried down the Shella River to Sylhet, one of the biggest centres in East Bengal, which brought unimaginable wealth to the Shella people. Their houses were built by carpenters from Sylhet. The style and structure of these houses were exceptionaly elaborate for the Khasi. They purchased vast rice fields in the plain, which used to be cultivated by Bengalee and Garo labourers engaged by them. These Khasi do not themselves know how to cultivate rice fields; they have always been managers or landowners. Their boys used to be sent to high schools and colleges in Sylhet. As a result of their trading with the Bengalee, many of them read and speak fluent Bengalee. There is no difference between their style of clothing and that of the Bengalee, though the women maintain their traditional dress in the Shella style.

They have thus been distinguished from the rest of the Khasi not only geographically, but also economically and culturally. Their personality also differs sharply from the rest of the Khasi. They are very sociable, and quick, a quality lacking among the Khasi of Sohkynduh and Kongton. They are clever enough to deal with strangers. The upland Khasi say Shella people are very cunning. This remark shows one side of these people. They had to be cunning, since they traded with the Sylhet Bengalee who were said to be the most cunning of their race. Their role in the trade and in the history of the modernization of the Hills was considerable. For centuries they represented intellectual Khasi owing to their contact with Hindu civilization, while the Hills remained in darkness. They assumed an important role when the British established an administration in the Hills, and even up to now, many leading Khasi originated from this area: for instance, Lati Hat, the first interpreter of the British Headquarters at Cherrapunjee; Jeebon Roy, who was the first Magistrate among the Khasi; Maham Sing, a lawyer and Member of the Legislative Assembly (the grandson of Jeebon Roy); Nichols Roy, Minister of Health and Prisons of the Assam Government, Member of the Legislative Assembly, and Missionary of the Church of God; R. R. Thomas (brother of Nichols Roy), Principal of the Gauhati University, etc.

Through constant cultural contact with Hindu, and encouraged by their economic prosperity, the Shella Khasi, like the Jaintias, have been much influenced by Hindu culture. However, this does not mean that the people of Shella adopted the Hindu beliefs. Though there is a small Hindu shrine, and some ceremonial elements were borrowed from the Hindu, most of the

15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

people remained non-Hindu in their basic beliefs and social customs. Hindu influences are nevertheless predominant in their culture, especially in their way of living which shows a practical adaptability, somewhat similar to the Japanese acceptance of modern western culture without becoming Christian. In my census of Shella village, the people calling themselves 'Hindu' amount to 40 per cent of the total, but they are the recent converts to the Ramakrishna School which established a missionary station at Shella after the Partition. The Christians constitute 30 per cent of the total, most of them having been converted during the last ten years, as in the case of the Ramachrishna School.[1] The rest remain as they were, of Khasi belief. These conversions to either Ramachrishna or Christianity seem to have been encouraged by the unstable situation of the people resulting from the recent economic depression in this area.

The Partition of India and Pakistan in August 1947, which drew the borderline a few miles south of Shella village, considerably upset village economy by stopping all trade with Bengal, though a limited amount of trade is allowed with local people at the border. Because of this political change, all the produce of Shella gardens is rotting away for lack of markets, while all of the rice fields were taken by Pakistan. Goods now come to Shella only from the uplands, carried upon men's shoulders over the most difficult pass, which makes everything very expensive. Many families have sold their gold and other treasures, and some families are facing starvation.[2]

Concerning the conversion to a new religion, an interesting phenomenon is to be observed. The conversion to Christianity or to Ramakrishna is mostly by individual: I found in my census that the wife and husband often belong to different religions. This is a very different picture from the Garo, among whom I always found that the husband and wife belonged to the same religion: the conversion of the husband to Christianity was always followed by that of the wife. I think this reflects the structural differences which influence the actual relationship between the husband and wife. Among these Khasi, instead of the husband and wife, the maternal uncle and his nephews and nieces are mostly of the same religion. The function of the *iing*, the most important social and religious unit, thus appears also in the conversion to a new religion, stronger than that of a domestic unit.

Intermarriage.

The close economic and cultural contact of the Shella people and the Bengalee is not matched by social contact. The essential barrier between the two peoples is the difference of religion which dominates the entire social order in each society. Though these Khasi were important traders, richer than the neighbouring Hindu peasants, they were considered by the Hindu as outcasts with whom they never shared social activities. Intermarriages were therefore very rare. In Shella village, only two exceptional cases were found in my census:

1. A Khasi woman married to a Gurka (cattle-keeper); they live at Shella Bazaar (Sholap).
2. A Khasi woman has marital relation with a Bengalee medical doctor who has resided at Disong in Shella for six years. He already has a Bengalee

1. These two entirely different missionary activities are competing with each other, and are somewhat related to the political powers within this area.
2. The state government is doing its best to provide them with additional facilities: for example, providing air transport for the transportation of oranges from Shella to Gauhati and Calcutta. However, such arrangements cannot cover the great economic loss suffered by the Shella people.

15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

182 very wealthy households still maintain their former economic activities, but
434 the majority have been impoverished, becoming daily labourers for the wealthy ones or for road construction. Thus considerable internal economic differentiation has begun to appear in the community.

Though the recent economic depression brought poverty to Jatinga, the
182 standard of living is still strikingly higher than that of neighbouring tribes.
245 Studying such economic aspects of Jatinga, I wondered at first why these neighbouring tribes have remained as they were, except for temporary employ-
648 ment at Jatinga: why, looking at the prosperity of Jatinga, they did not adopt the way of the Jatinga people?

Indeed some of them attempted to imitate the Jatinga economy, but the results were unfortunately not favourable to them. First, both pan-leaf and orange cultivations were entirely new to the tribal peoples, and the technique was quite different from that of dry rice cultivation in the jhum field. Pan cultivation requires very delicate care which is almost impossible to manage for people who have been accustomed to the primitive jhuming cultivation. For instance, when they go into pan gardens, they have to wash themselves and put on special clean clothes in order to prevent the spread of epidemic leaf disease. Tribal people, who seldom wash their clothes, or mostly go naked, could hardly keep pan gardens. In this respect the Khasi are entirely different, having specialized in this economy for a long period, even as they believe, from time immemorial.

On the other hand, the technique of orange cultivation is much easier than that of pan-leaf, but it takes several years to obtain a yield; it requires considerable capital to begin with. For the jhum cultivators, who usually did not have cash income nor funds, it was almost impossible to start it, while the Khasi were able to raise funds from the selling of the pan-leaf. Furthermore, the
[423] management of such gardens, either pan-leaf or orange, differs also from that of the jhum field as it entirely depends on individual enterprise based on private land ownership, which is new for those tribes where the community owns the land. Therefore the possibility of starting orange gardens is restricted to special individuals among them belonging to exceptionally rich and powerful households. A few households in neighbouring villages did, in fact, start orange gardens, adopting the technique of the Jatinga people. This was around 1942 and they were expecting to have the yield around 1950. However, unfortunately, when their oranges began to come into production, orange disease started in Jatinga and spread all over these areas. Their dream therefore never came true.

Besides oranges, some of them also established gardens of bananas, jackfruits, and papaias, which were more successful than the oranges. These plantations started much earlier than oranges in this area, though not in great quantity. The products were sold to the Jatinga people who sold them again to Bengalee merchants. The question arises why were they not sold directly to Bengalee merchants, when the profit would have been much greater.

This aspect of the market economy touches upon very interesting problems
182 concerning the relations between tribal and Hindu peoples. Such tribal peoples
44 who live on a primitive subsistence level usually do not have direct contact with the peoples of the plains. There is always an intermediary between them.
648 In this case it is the Jatinga people who know both tribal life and Hindu life. They are also in between culturally. If a tribal cultivator sells his produce to a Hindu merchant, he would most certainly be cheated by the cunning merchant, as he is quite ignorant of trade. Tribal men do deal with markets directly, but only on a small scale at Haflong bazaar, and without making a profit: it is just the exchange of their basketful of jhum produce for an iron

15: Nakane E-5 (1955-1956) 1967 AR7 Khasi AR7

spade or some dried fish, etc. Products such as large quantities of fruits should be sold to the Jatinga people who buy them at reasonable prices. 182

The Khasi are born traders. This must be closely related with their economic technique, such as pan cultivation which makes it impossible for them to live without trading. Hence, though they are hill people, they have had close economic contact with the peoples of the surrounding plains. At the same time, some of them have had a very similar economy to that of other tribes, such as that of Sohkynduh and of Kongton; hence they are familiar with tribal economy. On the whole, their dealings with the tribes as well as with the plains peoples are fair, though they are hard bargainers. Indeed the Khasi are quite welcomed by both sides. Thus the Khasi play an important role as intermediary between the tribes living in the hills and the Hindu (and Moslems) living in the plains.[1] 44 648

The economic contact is the most important of the many contacts between Jatinga and other tribal villages. Social contact, as appeared in intermarriages, is a rather marginal matter for the total population. Cultural contact is negligible: I only observed one indication—some fashionable tribal girls sometimes wear Khasi women's dress when they go to the Haflong bazaar. In their contact with tribes, the Jatinga Khasi speak Hindi which is the common language at Haflong bazaar for all tribes and peoples in this area. A few men of Jatinga speak some tribal language, but none of the tribal speak the Khasi language. 648 182 [191]

In spite of such great differences in culture, economy and social organization, the relationship between the Jatinga people and the tribes has remained very friendly. For instance, as I mentioned before (p. 175, note 3), the tribes lent their land to Jatinga people who were suffering from a great economic depression. Their actual behaviour also reflects such a friendly relationship. It is said that at the time of the Golden Jubilee of Jatinga in November 1955, many Zemi-Naga, Kuki, and Cacharee came and performed their dances for the celebration.

1. The important role of the Khasi as intermediary is not only in the economic field, but also in the political and cultural fields: nowadays many Khasi officers are sent to tribal areas by the Government. They are very efficient in dealing with such work, because they are used to deal with both tribal and plain peoples.

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16: McCormack E-4,5 (1956-1958) 1964
[P. 106 B] AR7 Khasi AR7

1903-28: 2, Bareh 1962.] **Demography.** According to the 1951 census of India, the United Khasi–Jaintia Hills District contained 221,962 Khasis and 67,532 Syntengs, Pnars, and Jaintias (India [Republic] 1952-57). These figures, together with those for Khasis enumerated in Cachar (4,005), Mikir and North Cachar Hills (467), Lakhimpur (287), Sibsagar (276), and Darrang (211) districts, and those for Syntengs enumerated in Mikir and North Cachar District (464), yield a total of 295,224 Khasis. **History and cultural relations.** Khasis believe that they had supernatural origin in Khasi Hills (see Gait 1926: 260 for historical evidence, and Rafy 1920: 8-9 for myth, but see also Costa 1958, 1960; Gurdon 1907: 10-11; and Chatterji 1953: 12). Khasi tradition also states that in early times they moved gradually from east to west, from Jaintia toward Khasi Hills, in the practice of swidden agriculture (Gatphoh 1947: 97-98). The salient fact of known Khasi history, which begins generally in the mid-sixteenth century A.D. when there already existed the present-day 25 native Khasi chiefdoms, is the distinctive line of development followed by the separate kingdom of Jaintia. To the north, Jaintia was successively tributary, in part or in whole, to the Kachari kingdom (ca. 1230 A.D.), the Koch kingdom (strongest ca. 1560 A.D.), and the Ahom kingdom (strongest ca. 1700 A.D.) (Shakespear 1914: Map I). To the south, about 1500 A.D., Jaintia extended its rule over a tract of Sylhet, which was populated by Hindus and Muslims, and saw its kings fall thereafter under Brahman influence. In the early 1800s, Jaintia became involved in the fratricidal strife then prevalent in the ruling family of Manipur. In 1835, after the Jaintia king ignored British warnings not to seize British subjects for human sacrifice, Jaintia was punished by the British annexation of the Jaintia parganas in Sylhet. The Jaintia king then voluntarily turned over to the British the hills area of his domain, so that the whole of Jaintia became part of British India and, in 1860, came to be taxed as such, although the Jaintias were otherwise allowed to maintain their traditional system of village government. • By contrast, the remaining Khasi states had few formal external relations until British times. Khasis raided and traded in both the Brahmaputra and Sylhet valleys, but were basically turned inward on their own hills, where warfare between villages and between the states was apparently common. Khasis came into indirect relation with the British in 1765, when Sylhet and its markets became part of British India. In the 1790s, stepped-up Khasi raids into Sylhet caused the British to throw up a deterring line of forts along the foothills. Later, it became necessary to place an embargo on Khasi products in the Sylhet markets. In 1827, the British penetrated into western Khasi Hills by negotiating with the Khasi chief of Nongkhlaw **State** to build a road through his territory, linking the recently annexed Brahmaputra valley with Calcutta. For three decades

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thereafter, the British negotiated treaties with all the Khasi states, the last treaty being signed in 1862. It was contracted that the chiefs would be subject to the authority of a resident political agent, whose duties would involve maintaining law and order, judging cases of heinous crimes, approving the popular selection of any new chief, and exercising control over certain categories of natural resources. Khasis were guaranteed noninterference in their customary way of life, and they were not then, nor are they now, taxed. Most Khasis, as opposed to Jaintias, were never an integral part of British India, but they did undergo social change as a result of British presence. To summarize Mills (n.d.): (1) The British introduced the potato, which the Khasis rapidly took up as a cash crop for marketing as far as Calcutta. The intensive specialization exhausted the soil and made for ever-poorer crops. (2) Christian missionaries made large numbers of converts, and there arose the difficult question of whether a Christian should inherit property that traditionally was earmarked for her performance of non-Christian religious rituals. (3) About 1864 the British transferred their headquarters from Cherrapunji to Shillong. When they made Shillong the capital of the entire state of Assam, non-Khasis flocked to it, land values soared, and the concept of private property became increasingly important. Khasis began to marry with members of other ethnic groups, which introduced confusion into traditional social patterns. These problems were exacerbated during World War II, when Shillong and its environs enjoyed enormous economic prosperity. One notable aftermath of this affluence has been the accelerated enrollments in schools and colleges. Hundreds of Khasis now have the B.A., M.A., and even the Ph.D. degree. • With the Independence of India in 1947, and under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India (which was drafted by a Khasi), the United Khasi–Jaintia Hills District became a Part B, or Autonomous, Tribal Area, to be governed by a District Council composed largely of Khasis and Jaintias, and responsible not to the Legislature of Assam, but to the Governor of Assam as agent of the President of India. The native-state system and the chiefs still exist, and the District Council finds it difficult to effect legislation which is neither offensive to regional custom nor a simple blueprint of ill-fitting all-India legislation. The major political schism at this time is between Jaintias, who are accustomed to centralized authority and taxation, and Khasis, who resist the notion of taxation to support the work of a central District Council. [Cf. Gait 1926; Aitchison 1931; Bhuyan 1949; Morris 1910.]

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SETTLEMENT PATTERN AND HOUSING. **Settlement pattern.** Khasis live sedentarily in named, nucleated, and unplanned villages which are situated just below hill summits to avoid strong winds but still be defensible, and which usually include a de-

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19: Assam G-5 (1958) 1963 AR7 Khasi AR7

REPORT ON RURAL ECONOMIC SURVEY IN UNITED KHASI-JAINTIA HILLS.

CHAPTER I

Introduction

1.1 Objective.—Consequent upon restrictions on trade emerging in the border markets after partition, the economic condition of the people living in the border areas of the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills district adjoining East Pakistan, suffered a serious set back. There was demand from the people all over the border areas for adequate relief as well as rehabilitation of their shattered economy. From time to time Government took up various relief measures but, for adopting a planned programme of relief and rehabilitation in an integrated and sustained manner, the need for a comprehensive economic survey of the district with special emphasis on the border areas, came to the forefront. Accordingly at the instance of Government of Assam, the Department of Economics and Statistics addressed itself to the task of launching an economic survey in the district.

The programme consisted of an intensive study of the conditions in selected villages and was designed to meet the following objectives:— (I) To obtain a broad picture of the rural economic conditions in the district and in particular, to provide factual data on the various aspects of agriculture and farm economics, *e. g.*, land tenure, size and distribution of agricultural holdings and farms, fragmentation, income and expenditures occupation and the like. Data should be collected also on the occupations and industries which play subsidiary roles in the economy of the district. (II) Special emphasis need be given on border areas, in order to bring to light the measure of suffering of the border people as a result of partition and to suggest various long and short term measures for ameliorating the condition of the border people. (III) The survey should adequately cover the Community Development areas also in order that it becomes possible to make an assessment of the impact of the community development programmes on the socio-economic life of the people in these areas.

1.2 Coverage and Period.—The field work of the survey was started on 28th February, 1958 and was completed by the middle of July, 1958 thus requiring nearly four and a half months.

1.3 Design of the Survey.—For a study of border economy, a purposive selection of ten villages in the border area, which were known to be important from the point of view of production and distributive trade in pre-partition days was made. Similarly for project areas a total of eight villages two from each of the four blocks in the district—where intensive development programmes were taken up, were selected. These villages were selected by the Project Officers themselves. Apart from these, a random sample of ten villages from all over the district were taken. Thus a total of 28 villages all over district—10 from border areas, 8 from project areas and 10 from general areas were selected for

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trade. Rikyntí are mostly found in the higher hills region—the area between War (southern portion of the district roughly the border area) and Bhoi and constitutes a major portion of the total area of land in Shillong subdivision. In Jowai subdivision private lands are very small in area, only 7,266 acres in total and they are known as 'Biniaj'. 423

II. **Raj Lands.**—They are lands belonging to nobody. It can be said to be a common property which everybody has a right to use, of course with necessary permission from 'Village Raj' in respect of Raj lands under the village or from Syiem in respect of Raj lands under the Syiem. In case of Raj lands the land continues to be in possession of one so long as he cultivates there but as soon as he ceases cultivation it reverts back to the Raj. The land which is known in the official term as unclassed State forests is also Raj land but is under the control of the District Council.

Raj lands are found every where in the district though the major portion is found in Bhoi area and in his area for purpose of cultivation permission is given to any Khasi from any part of the district, while elsewhere in the district, this is confined to the local people only.

III. **Land under Zamindars.**—In War area in both subdivisions here are some big land holders who are locally known as zamindars. There is no record of the number of such zamindaries nor the amount of land held by them. These lands provide suitable sites for cultivation of valuable cash crops like betel-nut, orange, betel-leaf, tezpata and other fruits. The petty landlords are not at all powerful nor it is customary to exploit the tenants. Generally, the landlord leases out of his land on long term basis and the rent is either fixed in cash or in kind and the rate varies according to the fertility of the soil and other conveniences from all points of view. On the average the rent per year is 10% of the produce in case of betel-nut, Rs. 40·00 per acre of land per term (usually 5 to 6 years) in case of betel-leaf cultivation and for wet paddy cultivation if the land is very fertile the produce is shared in the rate 50:50 otherwise 1:2 between the landlord and the tenants. For other crops, generally the rent is negligible or nil.

IV. Besides lands under the above main three categories there are also lands which are under control and management of the State Forest Department and the District Council of United K.-J. Hills.

(*a*) **Forest reserve under Assam Forest Regulation VII, 1891.**— There are forests belonging to Government under the control of the State Forest Department. There are five numbers in total, three of them are in Shillong subdivision covering a total area 32,188 acres and two in Jowai subdivision covering an area of 76,961 acres. The total area is 1,09,149 acres, *i.e.*, 170·5 sq. miles. 423 659 648

(*b*) **Forest reserve under executive orders of Government.** These forests are also under the control of the same Department reserved for the purpose of beautification, etc. There are only five of them within the Shillong subdivision and around the town of Shillong. The total area covered is 2,638 acres only, *i. e.*, about 4 sq. miles.

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423 659 648 (c) **Green Blocks.**—These green forests are private forest but protected and managed by the Department for the purpose of retaining the source of water supply, etc., for the town of Shillong. They are five in number covering a total area of 2·24 sq. miles and located around the town of Shillong itself.

(d) **Private protected Forests.**—There are private forests protected by the State Government for the growth of forests, but the owner can use them provided permission is given by the Deputy Commissioner. There are 16 numbers of them scattered here and there throughout the whole of Shillong subdivision only and covering an area of more than 24·79 sq. miles.

V. In Jowai subdivision there are four blocks of land covering a total area of 44·9 sq. miles reserved for sports and games. They are under the control of the State Revenue Department.

VI. **Raj lands of unclassed State Protected Forests.**—This includes the Raj lands under the District Council mentioned in item 2 above. These forests were formerly under the control of the State Forest Department but are now transferred to the District Council. They are scattered throughout the whole of the district and cover an area of more than 73·05 sq. miles. There are altogether 52 numbers of such forests, 30 of them with an area of more than 57·05 sq. miles and are in Shillong subdivision and 22 numbers with an area of 16 sq. miles are in Jowai subdivision.

423 651 648 2.11.1. **Revenue collected by the District Council (Land Revenue System).**—(a) In Jowai subdivision all the Raj lands mentioned in item 9 above which have been brought under wet paddy cultivation are subjected to payment of annual revenue. The revenues is fixed according to the fertility of the soil. There are three classes—class I hali lands, class II hali lands and class III hali lands, and the revenue varies according to these three classes of lands from Re. 0.50 to Re. 0.87 per bigha per year. There are altogether 28,683 plots covering a total area of 19,709 acres. No such revenue exists in Shillong subdivision.

(b) In both subdivisions there are also lands under special settlement accompanied by revenue.

Shillong subdivision.—An annual revenue is collected for the building site only from Saitsohpen villages, where there are 169 holdings covering a total area of 86 acres with a total revenue of Rs. 505·72 per year.

Seven pieces of land in Burnihat used by the United Fruit Company covering a total area of 182·09 acres. The revenue collected per year is Rs. 550·81. A revenue of Rs. 2. only per year is collected from two building sites at Nongpoh station whose area is 29,861 sq ft.

Jowai subdivision.—An area of 131 acres of land in Lakadong and Satpator Dolloiship and under orange cultivation is also subjected to payment of annual revenue of Rs. 255·44.

There is another 102·21 acres of land in Subacherra in the Indo Pakistan Border which is under tea plantation since prepartition period. After partition this area has fallen into India. But at present though tea plantation is still carried on, the revenue has never been collected at all since the company has gone to Pakistan. 423 651 648

There are also in Jowai subdivision 15 numbers of building land sites, mostly leased out to non Khasi individuals and institutions. They include building for churches, schools, hospitals and training classes, etc. The total area comes to 39·39 acres with a total revenue of Rs.216·84 per year. The period of the lease varies from one plot to another.

Apart from land revenue, all the houses in Jowai subdivision are subjected to taxation. The rate is fixed at Rs.2 to Rs.6 per year according to the economic condition of the village. In Shillong subdivision only 31 Sirdarships which were formerly known as British Sirdarships have to pay house tax.

2.12 **Land Utilisation.**—The following table gives the area under important crops. 241 433

TABLE 2

	1958-59	
Winter rice	37,800	acres.
Maize	8,000	,,
Other cereals	1,000	,,
Potato	21,600	,,
Chillies	350	,,
Sweet potato	5,400	,,
Linseed	180	,,
Cotton	50	,,
Tobacco	600	,,
Arecanut	13,455	,,
Orange	20,000	,,
Betel-leaf	10,000	
Total	1,18,435	acres.

19: Assam G-5 (1958) 1963 AR7 Khasi AR7

CHAPTER III

The Border Area

3. 1 **Definition of Border Area.**—The term 'border areas' although very frequently used does not refer to any well demarcated area. It was, therefore, decided after a joint discussion between the Director of Statistics with the Deputy Commissioner of the district and Subdivisional Officer, Jowai, that area within 20 miles of the Indo-Pak border line would be considered as the 'border area' for the purpose of the present survey. The list of the villages falling in this area was supplied by the Deputy Commissioner and the Subdivisional Officer.

3. 2 **Condition of the Border Area before partition.**—The border area under review thus comprised of the southern slopes of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and a narrow strip of plains adjoining the southern slopes running along the Pakistan border. The area extends laterally over a length of about 120 miles, roughly from Maheskhola on the west to Sonapur on the east thus covering an area of 2,400 sq. miles approximately, comprising of 454 villages inhabited by population of 74 thousands.

Barring the barren and rocky top plateaus the slopes are utilised or the production of valuable cash crops on intensive scale. These slopes provide suitable soil and climate for the production crops like arecanut, tezpatta, betel-leaf, oranges; pineapples and other fruits. On account of rich yields which such plantations give to the cultivators these slopes were, more densely inhabited and intensively cultivated than would appear possible from the topography of the area. Even the most inaccessible tracts in the slopes has been converted into rich orchards, wherefrom the produce was carried by headloads over steep gradients for several miles. Due to steep gradients little other use, except some jhuming here and there, could be made of this area.

Because of the very topography, this land had its natural connections with Sylhet district now forming part of East Pakistan. From time immemorial the area had a flourishing trade with Sylhet district. It was a two-way traffic. The cash crops found eager buyers in the people of Sylhet, from whom in turn the people in the border area obtained supplies of rice, fish, vegetables and other necessities of daily life. Thus in prepartition days they enjoyed a very prosperous and settled economy. The rich buildings in the border area villages which are now littering away, bear eloquent testimony to the past prosperity of the border economy.

With the partition of the country in 1947, trade with the plains of Sylhet, now forming part of East Pakistan, was restricted. As a result the whole economy of this region was completely shattered and the countryside which once hummed with activity and abundance was over-shadowed with unemployment, poverty and despair. All the cash crops the mainstay of the border people lost the market in East Pakistan. For want of communication facilities the produce could not be

East Pakistan to which the people in the border areas were entitled in the strength of various trade agreements of the Government of India with the authorities in Pakistan, were also scanty. The situation was still more aggravated due to the stringent measures adopted by authorities in Pakistan, on the plea of prevention of smuggling, in December, 1957 when the entire border trade virtually came to a standstill.

This chaos in border economy has resulted in widespread unemployment among the border people. There being no market for the produce, the owners ceased to take proper care of their orchards and plantations. As a result thousands of labourers who were employed in the orchards were thrown out of employment. Similar was the condition of those who were employed in the transportation of various commodities such as merchandise of trade etc. A large section of the people engaged in collection of limestone were also rendered unemployed with the set back received by the trade in limestone with East Pakistan. Due to stoppage of trans-border trade, petty traders engaged in distributive trade, also suffered.

Many of the border people possessing paddy lands and orchards in areas that are located in Pakistan had to abandon them. The following table will show the amount of land lying in Pakistan belonging to the farmer in the selected villages of border area :—

TABLE A-2

Name of villages	Area of land lost through partition		
	No. of families who possessed land in Pakistan	Area (acres)	Average per family (acres)
1. Nongjri	27	257·05	9·11
2. Shella	9	175·40	19·49
3. Bholaganj	13	100·00	7·69
4. Balat	2	13·50	6·75
5. Mawdon	nil	..	..
6. Lyngkhat	1	17·00	17·00
7. Darrang	16	880·75	55·05
8. Syndai	9	49·25	1·44
9. Amkl	5	29·45	5·89
10. Umshong	nil	..	..

A few families who did not have any landed interest on this side of the border were reported to have migrated to Pakistan. Most of the families are even now paying tax to East Pakistan authorities even though they are not getting any returns because they do not want to lose their right on land.

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3.3 **Measures so far taken.**—Since 1947, there has been constant demand from border people for relief and rehabilitation. Government undertook various measures to alleviate their difficulties. Government's attention to border problem has however, not been adequate. The common feeling of border people was that whenever the border problem deteriorated due to some adverse measures adopted by East Pakistan authorities more attention was attracted, on the other hand, when the situation eased comparatively the Government's vigilance also slackened.

The various measures so far adopted by Government in border area, have been fully discussed and commented upon by the Border Rehabilitation Committee. These need no repetition here. But a few points emerging from the grievances put forward by the villagers during our investigation are noted below.

On the question of the schemes linked up with the issue of diversification of agriculture in border area, a large section of the border people skilled in the maintenance and operation of orchards are opposed to the idea of a complete switch over from cash crops to food crops in the cultivation of which they have no adequate experience. Moreover, there is the problem of getting adequate land in the vicinity for wet paddy cultivation. Indeed, having lost the market for some of the cash crops, some cultivators are trying to increase cultivation of paddy and other valuable crops on their own initiative wherever suitable land is available. But the problem of getting adequate funds for reclamation and improvement of land has stood as a serious handicap to them. Financial assistance to the needy and willing cultivators for reclamation works and taking up of more minor irrigation projects is very necessary.

As regards Government loans granted to cultivators, people complained that apart from being inadequate they are often untimely. As a result the people, needy as they are, utilise the amount for meeting their day to day consumption expenses.

There have been complaints that various improved seeds supplied by Government are of very inferior quality leading to waste of time and money of the poor people. The Department of Agriculture should not only check the quality of the seeds before issue but should also see that the seed are properly used by inexperienced cultivators who are newly taking up cultivation of these crops.

With the opening up of a few vital P. W. D. Roads transport of border products to Shillong and other places has greatly been facilitated but the problem of transporting them from remote interiors to the various local points on P. W. D. roads still remains unsolved. While during winter season these places may be negotiated by a man on foot up and down the steep gradients, during rainy seasons these tracks become slippery, the streams and rivulets are overflooded and it becomes impossible for a man to cross them, thus isolating the villages from each other leading to collapse of trade and all other activities between villages. Properly planned test relief schemes for construction of feeder roads and bridges linking up these villages, will, apart from giving some works to the people alleviate much of the difficulties of transportation of agricultural produce.

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STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS.

THE DISTRICT OF THE KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS, called by the inhabitants Ka Ri Khási and Ka Ri Synteng, is situated between 26° 9′ 30″ and 25° 8′ 28″ north latitude, and between 91° 9′ 0″ and 92° 51′ 30″ east longitude. It contains an approximate area of 6157 square miles, and a population, according to the Census of 1872, of 141,838 souls. The principal town and Civil Station, which is also the headquarters of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, is Shillong, situated in 25° 32′ 39″ north latitude and 91° 55′ 32″ east longitude.

BOUNDARIES.—The Khási and Jáintiá Hills District is bounded on the north by the Districts of Kámrúp and Nowgong; on the east by Northern Cáchár, the Nágá Hills District, and the Kapilí river; on the south by Sylhet District; and on the west by the Gáro Hills.

JURISDICTION.—The Khási and Jáintiá Hills constitute a Political District, removed from the jurisdiction of the ordinary Criminal, Civil, and Revenue Courts, and of the offices established under the General Regulations and Acts. The administration of the country is vested in the Chief Commissioner of Assam, the Deputy-Commissioner of the Khási and Jáintiá Hills and his Assistants, and the native Chiefs, who are variously styled Siems, Wáhadádárs, Sardárs, Dollois, Pathors, and Lyngdohs. Siem, or more properly Seim, is derived from the Khási word for 'soul, life;' Wáhadárdár, from the Hindu term *uhádádr*, meaning an 'officer;' Lyngdoh strictly means a 'sacrificial soothsayer,' from the Khási *sng*, 'to speak,' and *doh*, 'flesh.' The District is divided into three portions, —namely, British possessions in the Khási Hills; petty dependent

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648 631 States in the Khásí Hills; and the Jáintiá Hill country, which is wholly British. The British possessions are administered under a code specially introduced for the purpose. The Khásí dependent States consist of petty democracies, presided over by chiefs called Siems, who, though taken from one family, are appointed by election; or by head-men, such as Wáhadádárs, Sardárs, and Lyngdohs, whose offices are absolutely elective. The appointment of all these chiefs and head-men is subject to the confirmation of the British Government, which also reserves to itself the right to remove them in case of misconduct.

The British possessions in the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills, which cover an aggregate area of 2160 square miles, consist of the following Fiscal Divisions:—In the Khásí Hills—(1) Jim-mang; (2) Láit-lyn-kot; (3) Láit-kroh; (4) Bái-rang, otherwise Wáh-long; (5) Long-ká-ding; (6) Máo-be-lár-kár; (7) Máo-smái; (8) Mynteng; (9) Máo-mlúh; (10) Máo-pun-kyr-tiang; (11) Nong-jírí; (12) Nong-lyng-kin; (13) Nong-bah; (14) Nong-riát; (15) Nong-kroh; (16) Nun-niah; (17) Rám-dáit; (18) Sáit-soh-pen; (19) Tyng-riang; (20) Tyng-rong; (21) Tyr-ná; (22) Um-niuh; (23) Mar-bisu (dependency); and (24) U Ttymá. In the Jáintiá Hills—(1) Am-wi; (2) Chap-duk (Kukí); (3) Dar-rang; (4) Jowái; (5) Lang-flút; (6) Lang-soh; (7) Lá-ká-dong; (8) Myn-riang (Mikír); (9) Mul-shoi (Kuki); (10) Más-kút; (11) Myn-sáo; (12) Nong-klih; (13) Nong-fúlút; (14) Nong-thá-long; (15) Nar-pú; (16) Nar-tiang; (17) Nong-bah; (18) Nong-jyngi; (19) Ral-liang; (20) Rym-bái; (21) Sái-pung (Kukí); (22) Soh-tyn-gah; (23) Shiliang-myn-tang; (24) Sáth-pathor; and (25) Shang-púng.

The Khásí democratic States, covering an aggregate area of 3997 square miles (in some reports stated at 4490 square miles), are as follow:—Presided over by Siems—(1) Bhawál, otherwise War-bah; (2) Cherrá; (3) Khyrim; (4) Lyng-kin; (5) Maláí-soh-mat; (6) Mahárám; (7) Máriao; (8) Máo-iong; (9) Máo-syn-rám; (10) Myl-liem; (11) Nong-soh-phoh; (12) Nong-klao; (13) Nongs-pung; (14) Nong-stain; and (15) Rám-brái. Presided over by Wáhadádárs—(1) The Confederacy of Shellá. Presided over by Sardárs—(1) Dwárá Nong-tyr-men; (2) Jí-rang; (3) Máolong; (4) Máo-don; and (5) Nong-long. Presided over by Lyngdohs—(1) Lyn-iong; (2) Máo-flang; (3) Nong-lywái; and (4) Soh-iong.

648 692 The administration in the Khásí States gives to the native Chiefs independent jurisdiction in all cases, civil or criminal (except

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homicide), in which their own subjects are concerned. All cases of homicide, or matters involving disputes between people belonging to different States, are adjudicated upon by the British officers of the District.

In the British possessions, the principal sources of revenue are rents and royalties derived from mineral workings, such as lime and coal; rents of fisheries; and a house tax, which varies, according to situation and productiveness of the soil, from R. 1 to Rs. 2 or from 2s. to 4s. per house. A land tax is only levied in tracts where the Government possesses the actual proprietary right in the soil. Again, in the Khásí States, the British Government, which undertakes the management of the natural products of the country, such as waste lands, coal, lime, etc., receives a half-share of the rents realized from these sources, the other half belonging to the native Chiefs. The other sources of revenue of the Chiefs are market dues, cesses levied occasionally for State purposes, and fines realized in the administration of justice.

HISTORY.—Our first knowledge of the Khásí Hills dates from the time when the East India Company acquired the *diwání* of Bengal in 1765. The adjoining District of Sylhet was included in that grant; but as the hillmen had never acknowledged any subjection to the Muhammadans, so they still remained absolutely independent of the British power. However, the necessities of commerce, arising from their monopoly of the lime quarries, from which Bengal has drawn its supply from time immemorial, soon attracted European enterprise to the country. As stated in the Appendix to the Statistical Account of Sylhet, the control of the profits of the lime trade formed in early times one of the most valuable advantages attaching to the position of the official in charge of that District. It does not appear that any European had been attracted to reside in the Hills before 1826. In that year the Rájá of Nongklao entered into an agreement with certain European British subjects to allow a road to be made across the Hills, to connect the Surmá valley with Assam Proper. These Europeans took up their residence at Nongklao. Misunderstandings unfortunately arose, and, partly by the misconduct of some of their Bengálí followers, the growing discontent and apprehension were fanned into a flame. On 4th April 1829 the Khásiás rose in arms and massacred Lieutenants Bedingfield and Burlton, together with some sepoys. This led to military operations on the part of the British Government, which

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175 continued through several cold seasons. The last of the Khásí chiefs
• 648 did not tender his submission until 1833. In February 1835 Colonel Lister was appointed Political Agent in the Khásí Hills, with his headquarters at Nongklao; and the command of the Sylhet Light Infantry battalion was also placed in his hands. The civil and military functions remained conjoined until 1854, when Mr. Hudson was deputed to Cherrá Púnjí, which had then become the administrative headquarters, with the title of Junior Assistant-Commissioner, shortly afterwards changed to the present one of Deputy-Commissioner.

The Jáintiá Hills came into British possession in 1835. In that year, as related in the Statistical Account of Sylhet District, the last Rájá of Jáintiá, Indra Singh, was deposed on the charge of complicity with certain of his tribesmen who had carried off three British subjects and barbarously immolated them at the shrine of Kálí. The portion of his territory that lay in the plains was forthwith annexed to the District of Sylhet; and the Rájá voluntarily resigned the hill portion, of which we also took possession. A pension of Rs. 500 a month, or £600 a year, was granted to the deposed Rájá for life, and he resided peaceably in Sylhet until
175 his death in 1861. When we first assumed the administration of
648 the Hills, no change was made in the indigenous revenue system,
651 which consisted simply of the payment of a he-goat once a year from each village. The Rájá had derived the greater portion of his income from his possessions in the plains. In 1860, however, a house tax was imposed, the highest limit of which was one rupee (2s.) per house. This measure of direct taxation was very obnoxious to the Syntengs. They formed irregular gatherings, at which they resolved to resist payment, or at least to refuse to pay except through their own hereditary Rájá, who was then alive. An outbreak took place in the early part of the year, but it was promptly suppressed; the people were disarmed, and matters went on much as usual. But the disarmament was imperfect, and it soon became evident that the Syntengs were profoundly disaffected to our rule. Towards the close of 1860 new taxation was introduced, in the form of judicial stamps; and the elaborate schedules of the new income tax were thrust into the hands of persons, few of whom could read the language in which they were framed. Imposts also were
175 introduced upon fisheries and the right to cut timber. Con-
764 siderable feeling had been excited by a sanitary prohibition against
648

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burning the dead in the immediate neighbourhood of the village of Jowái. Suspicions of insurrection arose during the months of October and November 1861. In the beginning of January 1862 alarming reports were received from various quarters, and the first serious outbreak occurred on the 17th of that month. This was occasioned by the interference of a *dárogá*, or native police official, with a religious ceremony that took place at the village of Jalong. In such ceremonies dancing with arms is held essential; and the *dárogá* took upon himself to disarm the dancers. This was the signal for a general rising. The *thánd* or police station at Jowái was burned to the ground; the garrison of sepoys was besieged, and all show of British authority was swept away throughout the Hills. The Syntengs fought bravely for their independence, and at first were successful in cutting off several small detachments of police and sepoys. Their weapons were bows and arrows. In common with the other hill tribes of the North-East Frontier, their chief defence consisted in a series of strong stockades, one behind another; and the paths leading to their villages were thickly planted with *pánjis*, or little bamboo spikes, stuck in the ground like caltrops. The battalion of sepoys stationed in the Hills was rendered inefficient by sickness. At last it was found necessary to move a regular army, including an elephant battery and two regiments of Sikhs, into the country in order to quell the revolt. Colonel Dunsford was in chief command. He was accompanied by Major Haughton, the Governor-General's Agent on the North-East Frontier, and Captain Morton, the Deputy-Commissioner of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills, who acted in a political capacity. The operations were tedious and harassing. The rebel chiefs were captured one by one, and the District was declared to be finally pacified in March 1863, after the rebellion had lasted for fifteen months. The special Commission appointed under Act xi. of 1857, for the trial of offenders in the Jáintiá Hills, was dissolved in December 1863. The causes of the rebellion were thus summed up by Major Haughton in an official despatch to the Government of Bengal:—

'Taxation was introduced without the supervision with which such a measure should have been accompanied. It was followed up by fresh taxation and rumours of other taxes, also by fiscal and other innovations, which tended to disturb the minds of the people, without any counterpoise such as might have resulted from the continued presence of a European officer.' The Syntengs, like the

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175 Khásiás, have, ever since the measures of improvement which
• 648 followed, remained peaceable and contented.

GENERAL ASPECT OF THE DISTRICT.—The District consists
133 almost entirely of hills, only a very small portion lying in the plains. The slope of the hills on the southern side is steep, until a table-land is met with at an elevation of about 4000 feet. Higher up there is another plateau at Máo-flang, ten miles to the eastward of which, and in the same mountain range, the Civil Station of Shillong is situated at an elevation of 4900 feet above sea level. On the northern side of the hills are two plateaux, one between 1000 and 2000 feet below the level of Shillong, and the second lower down, about 3000 feet above sea level. In general features all these plateaux are much alike, and consist of a succession of undulating downs, broken
137 here and there by the valleys of the larger hill streams. In the higher ranges, where the hills have been denuded of forest, the country is covered with short grass, which becomes longer and
[778] more rank in the lower elevations. A remarkable feature in the aspect of the country throughout the hills is the numerous sacred groves which superstition has preserved from time immemorial from the destructive hand of the woodcutter. These sacred groves contain beautiful timber-trees of various kinds, rare orchids, rhododendrons, and wild cinnamon. On the more elevated table-lands, pine trees and stunted oak are met with; and in the lower hills, in every direction, are dense forests of the usual Indian trees, containing valuable timber.

134 The geological formation is mainly granitic, with stratified rocks
135 of sandstone, limestone, and shale. The coal-beds rest on trap and metamorphic rocks. The prevailing surface soil is a red ferruginous loam.

MOUNTAINS.—The principal mountain ranges and highest peaks
133 in the Khási and Jáintiá Hills are as follow:—(1) The Shillong range—height of principal peak, 6449 feet above sea level. (2) Dingiei range—principal peak, 6400 feet. (3) Máo-thad-rái-shán range—highest peak, 6297 feet. (4) Láo-syn-niá range—highest peak, 5775 feet. (5) Láit-máo-doh range—highest peak, 5377 feet. (6) Láo-ber-sát—highest peak, 5400 feet. (7) Láo-bah range—highest peak, 4464 feet. (8) Lyng-ker-dem range—highest peak, 5000 feet. (9) Lúm-baiong range—highest peak, 4646 feet. (10) Máo-syn-rám range—highest peak, 5810 feet.

The principal mountains are:—(1) Rap-leng—height, 5671 feet.

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In former years the Khásiás were 178
great iron-smelters, and enormous excavations in the most favourable 316
localities for obtaining ironstone prove the extent to which this 325
manufacture was carried on. In some places the whole surface of the ground appears to have been dug up for a depth of several feet, leaving huge boulders standing up here and there. Of late years, however, as the price of labour in the Hills has risen, the trade in iron has died away, and there is now little demand for the Khásí article, the cheaper English metal having driven it out of the market.

NATURAL PHENOMENA.—Many peculiar caves and caverns are 133
found in the limestone rock formation, the most notable being the caves at Cherrá Púnjí and at Rúpnáth in Amwi. At the latter place [823]
the caverns extend a great distance beneath the earth, one being imagined by the people to reach as far as China, and a Hindu legend states that a Chinese army once marched by this route to the invasion of India. In another cave, the limestone stalactites have been carved into images representing the gods of the Hindu pantheon. On the banks of the Kapilí river on the Cáchár border, at a place called Sumir, there is a hot spring, the water of which contains carbonate of lime. All the rivers in the Hills flow through gorges in certain parts of their course, the most picturesque being at Tehriá, where a small stream is compressed into deep pools among limestone rocks; and at Darrang and Borghát, where the Mangat and Mantideo rivers respectively debouch upon the plains.

FORESTS, ETC.—The India-rubber or caoutchouc tree is found in 137
many forests throughout the Hills, but not in great numbers, and [314]
the supply and value of the gum has much decreased of late years. In 1870 the right of tapping the trees in the Jáintiá Hills was leased out for a sum of £36, 12s. od.; but by 1876 the trade had almost entirely ceased. There are some tracts of timber forest on the lower hills towards the Brahmaputra valley, but through the want of water carriage they are of no great value. Vigorous efforts are 137
being made to preserve the forests in the higher plateaux. Owing to 648
the habit of firing the jungle in spring prior to sowing, great waste 659
of valuable timber has taken place; but since the country has been separated from Bengal and placed under the administration of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, attention has been given to the matter, and special areas are now being set apart for the preservation and growth of forest timber. Cinnamon grows wild in some parts of the country. There is a considerable trade carried on in 000

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There is considerable trade carried on in
245 439 *tezpát* or bay leaves, the trees being extensively cultivated by the inhabitants of the lower slopes of the hills on the Sylhet border. The finest oranges in India are also grown in groves in the same tract, the value of the trade in which is now (1876) estimated to amount 237 to £3760 per annum. Lac is gathered by the Míkírs in the Jáintiá 439 Hills, but not to any great extent. Bees are both domesticated and found wild, and an extensive trade in bees-wax is carried on, 231 the amount exported being estimated at from three hundred to four hundred *maunds* annually. The whole of the Hills, where there is 233 no forest, and where the land is not under cultivation, consists of 621 rich pasture grounds, which are held in common by the villagers 651 and pay no revenue to Government.

137 The forests of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills do not yield much profit either to the British Government or to the chiefs. There [648] are no reserved forests in the District; and according to the Deputy-Conservator, the total area of unreserved forest, *i.e.* of land covered [659] with timber trees and not at present required for *júm* cultivation, is only 150 square miles. The trees found are chiefly pine, and those classified as 'mixed upper hill forests.' At an elevation of 3000 feet, the Pinus Kasia predominates over all other vegetation and forms almost pure pine forests. It is found also at lower heights, and there attains larger dimensions, but only in the case of isolated trees. The 'mixed upper hill forests' are confined to a series of sacred groves, which clothe the topmost ridge of the watershed between the valleys of the Brahmaputra and Surmá. The characteristic trees are those of a temperate vegetation, chiefly consisting of oaks, chestnuts, magnolia, Schima, Cinnamomum, Prunus, Engelhardtia, etc. There are also numerous other timber trees, including the valuable *sál* (Shorea robusta) and the rubber tree (Ficus elastica); but on the whole the Khásí Hills are remarkable for the [648] absence of forest. Early in 1874-75 measures were taken to put a stop to the indiscriminate burning of the forests, and the Siems and [659] village officers were made responsible for the conservancy of the sacred groves. These endeavours have met with some success; but it is a very difficult thing to change the habits of a population, or to induce uncivilised tribes to incur a small temporary inconvenience for the sake of future benefit. The total area directly protected from fire during the year 1875-76 is returned at 3618 acres; the expenditure was Rs. 122; and in ten prosecutions for breaches of forest rules, twenty-three persons were convicted.

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The forest administration of the British Government is confined to two plantations in the neighbourhood of Shillong, for which a rent is payable in perpetuity. One of these, on the farther side of the Umkra, was originally acquired in 1871-72 for the sake of experiments in arboriculture. The rent of Rs. 50, or £5, is paid by the Forest Department; the area had been at first estimated at 580 acres, but an actual survey undertaken in 1875-76 reduced this estimate to 262·59 acres. A considerable portion is covered with Pinus Kasia, which is carefully protected. Of the exotic trees tried on this plantation, only the three following can be said to have done well: Juglans regia, Eucalyptus rostrata, and Pinus maritima. All the rest either suffered from frost in the winter, or required far more nursing than can be afforded them in forest plantations. The young trees of the indigenous oak (Quercus serrata) were also attacked by rats, who bit off great numbers just above the ground. The Spanish chestnuts did not thrive, and were removed to the model farm for trial at a higher elevation. The second plantation, on the northern slopes of the range immediately behind the Station, consists of several patches of forest, which were acquired in connection with the scheme for providing Shillong with a permanent water supply. The total rent is Rs. 375, or £37, 10s., paid from Town Improvement Funds; and the aggregate area is estimated at 796 acres. All the fields within this area that had formerly been cultivated by the Khásiás—about 80 acres in all—were sown by the Forest Department with Pinus Kasia, Quercus Griffithii, Q. serrata, and Q. fenestrata, which have succeeded well; and about 8 acres were planted with different species of Eucalyptus. Up to the close of 1875-76 the sum expended on the first of these two plantations was Rs. 742. 9. 9, or £74, 5s. 3d., and on the second, Rs. 730. 9. 6, or £73, 1s. 2d.

A cinchona plantation was started in 1867 by the Superintendent of the Calcutta Botanical Gardens. It consists of twelve small patches of plants near Nongklao, and one near Jírang, situated at elevations varying from 3500 feet to 2000 feet. The species cultivated are Cinchona succirubra, C. officinalis, and C. micrantha. At first they were under the charge of two Khásí gardeners, who each received Rs. 16 a month, or £19, 4s. a year, to weed them and keep fires out. In 1874-75 these plantations were taken charge of by the Forest Department, and specimens of the cinchona bark were submitted for analysis to the Government Quinologist

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at Dárjiling, who reported unfavourably on them. They have since been made over to the Siem of Nongklao, who is responsible for their being kept clear of weeds and protected against fire. Up to the close of 1875-76 the total expenditure had been Rs. 672, or £67, 4s. 0d.

FERÆ NATURÆ.—Tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, buffaloes, *mithuns* or wild cows, bears, leopards, wolves, jackals, foxes, wild hog, and several kinds of deer abound in the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills. The expense of keeping down tigers in the shape of Government rewards amounted to £44, 10s. 0d. in 1869-70. The rate of reward now paid is Rs. 25 or £2, 10s. 0d. per head. No rewards have ever been given for the destruction of venomous serpents. The number of deaths from wild beasts and snake-bite reported to the police amounted to 28 in 1866-67, 18 in 1867-68, 16 in 1868-69, and 26 in 1869-70. The small game found in the Hills consists of black partridges, hill partridges, quails, ducks, teal, snipe, and woodcocks. The *mahsir* fish is caught in the rivers. No regular trade is carried on in the skins of wild animals; and, except in the case of wild elephants, the *feræ naturæ* are not made to contribute towards the wealth of the people.

ELEPHANTS.—Wild elephants are found in the lower ranges of the hills, and in the gorges opening on the valleys of the Surmá and the Brahmaputra. Each State in the Khásí Hills and each dolloiship in the Jáintiá Hills constitutes a separate hunting circle or *mahál*. In the Khásí States the conditions of elephant hunting are governed by rules framed in 1874-75 by the Chief Commissioner, and approved by the Government of India. These rules provide, (1) that the British Government will make no claim to royalty on account of elephants caught in the Khásí Hills; (2) that one half of the proceeds of the sale of each elephant caught shall be paid over to the chief whose State forms the *mahál*, and the other half retained by Government; (3) that if a chief wishes to hunt elephants on his own account, the *mahál* composed of his State shall be reserved from sale, and a special arrangement shall be made with him on the basis that half the proceeds of the hunting shall accrue to Government. A special form of hunting licence in accordance with these rules has been settled by the Chief Commissioner. In the Jáintiá Hills, as being British territory, the ordinary Assam rules are in force, in accordance with which leases of the *mahals* are sold at intervals of two years to the highest bidder at

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public auction. The Assam rules, as revised in 1875-76, reserve to Government the right of pre-emption at the price of Rs. 600 (£60) in the case of every elephant captured between 6 feet and 7½ feet in height. For every elephant caught that is not purchased by Government, a royalty of Rs. 100 (£10) is payable within one month after capture. Certain methods of hunting are prohibited.

POPULATION.—Prior to 1872 no attempts had been made at a Census of the Khási and Jáintiá Hills, but in 1870 the Deputy-Commissioner approximately estimated the population at 118,925 souls. In 1872, at the time of the Bengal Census, operations were set on foot in these Hills, but on a less elaborate system than in Regulation Districts. In the Khási Hills, the Census of the various petty States was effected through the chiefs; in British territory in the Jáintiá Hills, the *dollois* conducted the enumeration; while at Shillong and other places under direct administration, the work was done by officers attached to the Deputy-Commissioner's office. The results are thus returned:—Adults—males, 39,882; and females, 44,298: total adults, 84,280. Children under twelve years of age—males, 28,611; and females, 28,947: total children, 57,558. Total males, 68,593; total females, 73,245. Grand total, 141,838; proportion of males, 48·36 per cent. The total area of the District, according to the latest returns, is 6157 square miles, which gives an average density of 23 persons per square mile. The number of villages is 1003; the number of houses, 30,557, of which 350 are returned as of the better sort.

ETHNICAL DIVISION OF THE PEOPLE.—The population consists almost exclusively of aboriginal tribes and races, viz. Khásiás and Syntengs (who form the bulk of the inhabitants of the Khási and Jáintiá Hills respectively), Míkirs, Gáros, and Kukís. The only other dwellers in the Hills are the European officials and military officers at Shillong and Cherrá Púnjí, with their native servants and followers, a few Bengálí officials, and the sepoys of a regiment of native infantry. The classification of the inhabitants according to religion shows:—141,283 aborigines; 365 Hindus; 62 Muhammadans; and 128 Christians, including 35 Europeans, 8 Eurasians, and 85 native converts.

THE KHASIAS.—The following sketch of the physical characteristics and customs of the Khásiás has been kindly furnished to me by the Deputy-Commissioner, Colonel Bivar; it is reproduced almost verbatim from his report and on his authority:—

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disfigured from the practice. Adults will chew as many as four or five betel-nuts a day, with the usual accompaniment of *Pán* leaves. The estimated cost of maintaining an average family of the labouring class is about Rs. 8 or 16s. a month.

TOWNS: SHILLONG.—There are no towns in the usual acceptance of the word; but the chief places in the Hills, looked upon by the inhabitants as cities, are Shillong, Jowái, Cherrá Púnjí, and Shellá. According to the Census of 1872, Shillong had only 1363 inhabitants, Cherrá Púnjí 443, and Jowái 4502. Jowái, however, is a collection of rural hamlets, and the population of Shillong has entirely altered since the date of the Census. The latter place first became the Civil Station in 1864, in substitution for Cherrá Púnjí; and when Assam was erected into an independent Province in 1874, it was selected as the permanent seat of the Local Government. The Chief-Commissioner resides there, and also the heads of all departments in the Administration. The area of the Station is 7 miles in length by 1½ to 1¾ miles in breadth. A considerable native population is already settled, and is increasing from day to day. One of the largest weekly markets is held in the *Nizár*; and with a view to facilitate access to the Station, which is the sanitarium for the Province of Assam, a cart road has recently been completed to Gauhátí on the Brahmaputra, which will tend to make the place more and more important. An excellent water supply is introduced into Shillong through an aqueduct which has its source in the neighbouring hill streams, and sanitary measures are carefully enforced. Large sums of money have annually been expended on the erection of the public buildings necessary for the offices of the administration. A printing-press has been established, from which issue all the official documents and reports of the Province. The climate is excellent, the temperature being more equable than that of any other hill station in India, and therefore admirably suited to the constitution of Europeans. There is a church at Shillong, and a chaplain on the Bengal establishment officiates both there and at Gauhátí. The cantonments were occupied in 1875 by the 43d Regiment of Assam Light Infantry, with three outposts. The strength was 9 European officers, 16 native commissioned officers, 80 non-commissioned officers, 772 fighting men, and 58 paid camp followers and non-combatants; grand total, 935. The total cost, including contingencies, was Rs. 189,190, or £18,919.

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(9) Cotton is grown on high lands and
248 slopes; it is sown in April, and becomes fit for picking by January.

311 AREA AND OUT-TURN OF CROPS.—According to the Assam Ad-
241 ministration Report for 1875-76, the area of the British portion of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills District amounts to 2160 square miles,
• 648 of which only 110 are under cultivation; of the remainder, 1337 square miles are set down as cultivable, and 713 as uncultivable. The total area of the semi-independent Khásí States is given as 3997 square miles, of which 176 are under cultivation, 2561 are cultivable, and 1260 uncultivable. In another portion of the same Report, the area under various crops throughout the entire District is thus approximately estimated:—Rice, 59,880 acres; other food grains, 57,820 acres; cotton, 1076 acres; potatoes, 33,880 acres. The average out-turn of rice per acre is returned at 8 *maunds*, or nearly 6 cwt.; of other food grains, 3 *maunds*, or over 2 cwt.; of cotton, 2 *maunds*, or 1½ cwt.; of
[435] potatoes, 55 *maunds*, or nearly 40 cwt. The price of rice in 1875-76 was Rs. 4 8 per *maund*, or 12s. 8d. a cwt., which gives Rs. 36 or £3. 12s. as the value of the rice crop obtained from one acre.

241 CONDITION OF THE PEASANTRY.—The Khásiás can scarcely be
423 considered an agricultural people, as they do not grow sufficient
433 grain for their own subsistence, and are dependent to a great extent on imports of rice from the neighbouring Districts. Ten acres is generally considered a comfortable holding for a husbandman in the position of an ordinary Bengal peasant, but scarcely any man in the Hills depends entirely upon the produce of his land for
[231] his support. In the Jáintiá Hills a cultivator's position is con-
[554] sidered to be very low if he possesses no cattle, but performs all the operations of agriculture with his own hands. In that portion of the District, five acres is all that can be cultivated with a single
[465] pair of oxen, the average being four acres. A husbandman with a holding of five acres would not be so well off as a retail shopkeeper, nor would it enable him to live as comfortably as he could on a money wage of Rs. 8 or 16s. a month. The peasantry, however, as a class are not in debt. The land is owned chiefly by small proprietors, who occupy and cultivate their hereditary fields. The relations of landlord and tenant do not exist in the Hills, and no rent is payable to any one; consequently the principle of Act x. of 1859 (the Rent Law of Bengal) has no application.

231 THE ANIMALS used in agriculture are oxen; goats and pigs are
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extent of waste land, some is cultivated in a manner resembling the *jûm* system,—successive crops are grown on a patch of land till the soil is exhausted, and then another spot is selected, where the same process is repeated afresh, but without anything that can be called a *jûmid* tenure. Any renting of land is exceptional, and there are no recognised rates of rent. The Deputy-Commissioner, however, states that an ordinary rate for rented land would be from two to three shillings a year for as much land as an individual can cultivate with his own hands.

MANURE is generally used in raising rice and potatoes. It is seldom purchased, the dung and litter of the cattle and other animals about the house being generally utilized for the purpose. For rice fields a little less than half a ton of manure, but for potatoes upwards of two tons, is required per acre. Manure, if purchased, would cost from 2s. 7½d. to 3s. 9d. per acre for rice land, and for potato fields from 12s. to 18s. per acre.

IRRIGATION for agricultural purposes is regularly practised. Water is brought to the land by means of channels cut from the numerous hill streams in the neighbourhood of the fields. Wells and tanks are unknown. The work of irrigation by means of these channels is very easily carried on, and at a very trifling outlay. Rotation of crops is not practised in the Hills.

MODEL FARM.—The Shillong Model Farm, established in 1873, has not proved a success. Experiments tried with wheat give some hope that cold-weather crops may profitably be introduced into the Hills. Two new varieties of potato—'red roughs' and 'pheasant's eye'—were successfully introduced in 1873-74; but these are not looked upon favourably by the Khásiás, as they only give one crop in the year, whereas the ordinary variety yields two crops. Several fruit-trees have been planted out, including apple, pear, cherry, nectarine, and plum; and the tables of the European residents are supplied with vegetables from the garden attached to the farm. A *Manual of Potato Cultivation* compiled by the superintendent has been translated into Assamese, and copies have been distributed among the adjoining Hill tribes. The general failure in all the agricultural experiments is attributed partly to the unfitness of the soil, and still more to the ravages of white ants and other insects peculiar to the Hills. The attempts to improve the indigenous breeds of live stock have been equally unfortunate. During the two years 1874-76 the sum of Rs. 1744

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231 (£174, 8s.) was expended on the purchase of stock, including
• 648 cattle, sheep, and pigs from England. Even native cattle at the
654 elevation of Shillong fall off very much in the months of January and February from want of forage, and the Khásiás at this season generally drive them to lower slopes. But one of the chief objects in keeping cattle at the farm was to obtain manure; and *mati kaldi* (Phaseolus radiatus) was grown for them, cut green, and stocked
[731] for food. On this they did very well. In 1875-76, however, cattle disease broke out on the farm in a very virulent shape. Out of 39 cattle attacked, only 7, or 18 per cent., recovered, and the animals imported from England all died. There was also a heavy mortality in that year among the sheep and pigs. The following are the financial results for the two years:—1874-75—Expenditure, Rs. 13,297. 0. 5; receipts, Rs. 309. 2. 6: deficit, Rs. 12,987. 13. 11. 1875-76—Expenditure, Rs. 11,445. 8. 6; receipts, Rs. 1036. 15. 0: deficit, Rs. 10,408. 9. 6. Total deficit, Rs. 23,396. 7. 5, or £2339,
648 13s. In view of these figures the Chief Commissioner has deter-
654 mined to restrict farming operations to small experiments in irrigated *rabi* crops, and, as a measure of economy, to dispense with the services of the superintendent. The future expenditure on the farm will be insignificant. The establishment now (1877) consists of a *sardár* on Rs. 50 and a *chaukidár* on Rs. 10 a month (total, £72 a year), under the direct control of the Deputy-Conservator of Forests; the total number of live-stock is 64 head.

731 NATURAL CALAMITIES, such as blights, floods, or droughts, are not common in the District, although the crops in the Jáintiá Hills sometimes suffer from insects. So far as the Deputy-Commissioner is able to ascertain, no destruction of crops affecting the general harvest has occurred within the experience of the present generation.
[435] During the Orissa famine of 1866-67 the maximum price of common rice reached £1 per hundredweight, but no such distress was felt as to require Government relief operations. The price just mentioned was certainly equal to the rates prevalent in the famine-stricken localities; but prices always rule high in the Hills, and afford no just criterion of the state of affairs among the general body of the inhabitants. Distress was only felt by a small portion of the population, chiefly the Bengálí immigrants residing in the District,
262 who are generally a well-to-do class. The Hill people, as a rule, do
244 not eat potatoes, which they grow only for export; but in case of actual famine, they might fall back upon this crop for their own food
439 supply.

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The coal strata at the former place are calculated to extend over one-third of a square mile, with an average thickness of from 3 feet 6 inches to 4 feet; and the yield of the coal, if it could be worked, is estimated at 447,000 tons. At the latter spot the area of the coal-fields is computed to extend over 0·394 of a square mile, and the estimated yield of the mineral is about 1,100,000 tons. The coal at Cherrá Púnji and at Lá-ká-dong is in quality equal to some English coals; it is quick in its action, and consequently would generate steam rapidly; it cakes well, but gives out a large amount of smoke; it is fragile and easily broken. From the absence of that definite structure which produces the planes of division known to English miners as 'backs,' or joints in the coal, it breaks into unsymmetrical pieces, and consequently does not stow well. From its composition, quick combustion, and irregular cleavage, it is estimated to be from 5 to 7 per cent. inferior to good English coal; but as a gas-producing coal it is considered superior to English produce, both as regards quality and purity of the gas. It is also calculated to yield a good quality of coke. The market value of coal found in the Khási and Jáintiá Hills cannot be given with any approach to accuracy, owing to the expense of labour in the Hills and of carriage to the plains. The Station of Shillong, which consumes coal as fuel, derives its supply from the coal beds at Máo-beh-lyrkár, 18 miles distant, and the price is as high as £3 per ton. Lá-ká-dong is within six miles of Borghát, a village on an affluent of the Surmá, which is accessible all the year round by boats of 500 maunds, or 28 tons burden; but at present only coolie-carriage is available between Lá-ká-dong and Borghát.

The following is a brief history of the mines at Cherrá Púnjí in the Khási Hills, and at Lá-ká-dong in the Jáintiá Hills:—Government holds a perpetual lease of the Cherrá Púnjí mines from the chief or Siem of Cherrá, conditionally upon the payment by Government of a royalty of two shillings and eightpence for every five tons of coal quarried and removed from the mine, and also upon the terms that the people of Cherrá shall be permitted to work the beds on their own account. In 1844 Government transferred its right to work the mine to Captain Engledue, then agent of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, for a period of twenty years; but in the following year this gentleman, with the permission of Government, made over his lease to Messrs. Gisborne & Co., of Calcutta, who worked the mine for about two years,

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316 and in 1851 transferred their rights to Mr. W. Moran, of Calcutta.
• 648 The last lessee, however, preferred buying his coal to mining it; and
655 Government, seeing that the mines were not worked in a satisfactory manner, resumed the beds in 1859, and advertised them for letting. No person, however, has since come forward to work the mine. The Lá-ká-dong coal mines are the sole property of Government, which in the year 1848 leased the mining rights to Mr. B. W. Darley. This gentleman in the following year made over his lease to Messrs. Gisborne & Co., who soon afterwards transferred it to Mr. Moran. This gentleman surrendered his lease in 1859, when the mines were advertised for letting, but no one has since come forward and undertaken to work the coal. Between 1850 and 1856, while the mines were worked, about 5100 tons of coal were extracted for exportation.

In Mr. Allen's Report, dated 1858, it is stated that the coal of the Hills then found a ready sale at Dacca and elsewhere at 8 *dnnás* per *maund*; and that the average quantity exported into Bengal was about
[435] 25,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 12,500, or £1250. According to the local trade reports, this exportation would appear to have entirely died out; but the Bengal registration returns record 2965 *maunds* of coal, valued at Rs. 1482, or £148, at the rate of 8 *dnnás* per *maund*, as exported from Sylhet District in the year 1876-77. This supply was probably derived from the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills.

317 Limestone Quarries.—A limestone formation prevails more or less along the whole southern face of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills. The quarries are chiefly situated in the beds and on the banks of rivers and water-courses.

The limestone-quarrying localities in the Khásí Hills are the following twenty-six:—(1) Bha-wál; (2) Bor-syr-mai; (3) By-rang, *alias* Wáh-long; (4) Bor-púnjí; (5) Chún-juré; (6) Dholai; (7) Dwárá; (8) Ichhámati; (9) Lúm-dih-long; (10) Lan-grin; (11) Long-long; (12) Máo-nai; (13) Máo-don; (14) Máo-kár-tillá; (15) Mohesh-kháli; (16) Máo-long; (17) No-kriá; (18) Páthárié; (19) Ram-seng-rai-skeh; (20) Soh-lai; (21) Silai; (22) Shellá; (23) Tanglá; (24) Tang-wai; (25) Um-song; (26) Um-tymá. In the Jáintiá Hills, the following seven:—(1) Chún-chhorá; (2) Lámá-pushi; (3) Lithán; (4) Myrli Púnjí; (5) Nongthá-long; (6) Rúpnáth; (7) Rowai. The supply of limestone is literally inexhaustible. The wants of Calcutta and of the whole of Lower Bengal
648 have been satisfied from these hills from time immemorial. During
651 the year 1876-77 the estimated export was 1,600,000 *maunds*, valued
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at Rs. 480,000, or £48,000, and the revenue derived by Government from the quarries was Rs. 67,266, or £6726. In addition, the Khási Chiefs receive a revenue from this source of more than £2000.

IRON.—The smelting of iron was once the chief industry in the Khási Hills, and a considerable quantity of the metal used to be exported into Sylhet, both in the crude and the manufactured state. Recently, however, this industry has almost died out, in the face of the competition of the superior article imported from England and sold in the plains at a cheaper rate. The indigenous methods of extracting, washing, and smelting the ore have been minutely described by Professor Oldham. The following description is taken from Mr. Allen's Report, dated 1858, at which date the annual export of smelted iron was estimated at 45,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 67,500, or £6750, at the rate of Rs. 1. 8 per *maund*:—'The ore is said to be most abundant and of the best quality in the State of Khyrim, especially at the villages of Nongkrim and Noyandri. A few iron articles, such as *dáos* or hill knives, *kodálls* or mattocks, spear and arrow-heads, are manufactured by the Khási smiths in the Hills; but the greater bulk of the smelted iron is sent to the plains for sale in circular lumps weighing about 4 or 5 *sers*. These lumps, called *bird*, sell at Chhaták for from Rs. 1. 4 to Rs. 1. 6 per *maund*. The best iron, however, which is beaten into bars called *pati*, sells for from Rs. 1. 10 to Rs. 1. 12 per *maund*. Khási iron is preferred to English, in consequence of its greater malleability. It is much used by the native boat-builders of Sylhet and the neighbouring Districts to make fastenings for the timbers of their boats. When brought into the market, it is more than half dross, and it is this circumstance which renders the iron trade unprofitable. The cost of carriage from the Hills to the plains is about 6 *dands* per *maund*; and the traders, who are all Khásiás themselves, affirm that they get an average profit of only 2 *dands* per *maund*.' The tables of trade for 1876-77 return no smelted iron as exported from the Hills, but Rs. 7000 of iron implements exported, against nails and ironmongery imported to the value of Rs. 18,000.

THE MANUFACTURES of the District, besides iron, consist of coarse cotton and *rendia* cloth, plain silver work, rude implements of husbandry, netted bags made of the fibre of the pine-apple, common pottery, and mats and baskets. With the exception of the

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fish, fresh and dried, Rs. 20,000; salt, 2000 *maunds*, value Rs. 10,000. For the last three years, from 1874-75 to 1876-77, elaborate tables of the external commerce have been drawn up by the successive Deputy-Commissioners in charge of the District. There is, however, no organized system of trade registration, and the Chief Commissioner of Assam has expressed the opinion that the figures 'cannot be at all relied upon.' The items vary greatly year by year, which is partly due to the different principles of valuation adopted. For the year 1874-75 the total exports were valued at Rs. 1,371,830, or £137,183, being just double the estimated value twenty years ago; the imports were valued at Rs. 1,359,300, or £135,930, being an increase in the same period of nearly forty-fold. The excess value of exports was Rs. 12,530, or £1253. In 1875-76 the exports were valued at Rs. 1,721,761, or £172,176; the imports at Rs. 1,617,455, or £161,745, showing an excess on the export side of Rs. 104,306, or £10,430. The tables for 1876-77, given in full on the following pages (pp. 238, 239), are quoted from the Administration Report for that year. They are based partly upon returns of trade at the marts of Bholáganj and Jáintiápur, and partly upon such approximations as could be supplied by local traders. The total value of the exports amounts to Rs. 1,603,530, or £160,353; that of the imports to Rs. 1,576,483, or £157,648, showing a balance of Rs. 27,047, or £2704, in favour of the District.

The export of limestone in 1876-77 was 1,600,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 480,000, at the rate of Rs. 300 for 1000 *maunds*. These figures show no increase in quantity, but a large increase in value, over the estimates of twenty years ago. The registration system of river traffic in Bengal shows a total export during 1876-77 from the two Districts of Sylhet and Cáchár of 1,056,159 *maunds* of lime and limestone, valued at Rs. 742,118 at the rate of 12 *dands* per *maund*. The difference between these two sets of figures for the same year is very considerable. It may be partly explained by the consideration that the Bengal estimate of value includes the stone after it has been calcined and reduced to lime. The trade in limestone is chiefly in the hands of Messrs. Inglis & Co., whose depot is at Chhaták, on the Surmá river. The connection of this firm with the trade of the Khási Hills is of very long standing. The founder, Mr. Henry Inglis, was the son-in-law of

[*Sentence continued on page 238.*

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ESTIMATE OF IMPORTS INTO THE KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS FOR THE YEAR 1876-77.

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ARTICLES.	RATES OF VALUATION.	WEIGHT OR QUANTITY.	VALUE.
	Rs. per maund.		Rs.
Brass pots and pans,	—	—	12,700
Country soap,	15. 0	1,200	18,000
Chará or crushed rice,	2. 8	650	1,575
Cloth of sorts,	—	—	238,000
Cutch boards,	—	—	68,000
Cows and oxen,	—	—	3,600
Castor oil,	16. 0	125	2,000
Cocoa-nut oil,	25. 0	30	750
Dál or pulse,	6. 0	1,600	9,600
Eggs,	—	—	2,000
Earthenware and glass,	—	—	600
European stores,	—	—	16,000
Fish, cod dry fish,	6. 0	35,000	213,000
Ghí,	35. 0	650	22,750
Grains,	2. 0	1,300	2,600
Gold,	—	—	6,000
Kerosene oil,	20. 0	125	2,500
Molasses,	7. 0	2,800	19,600
Nails and ironmongery,	80. 0	300	18,000
Oil,	28. 0	1,200	30,600
Onions,	6. 0	800	4,800
Poultry,	—	—	12,500
Rice,	3. 8	200,800	750,300
Salt,	7. 0	22,000	82,000
Sugar,	17. 8	800	14,000
Spices,	—	—	1,000
Silver,	—	—	4,000
Sharp,	—	—	8,000
Tobacco,	6. 0	40	240
Tea and coffee,	—	—	2,500
Tobacco,	13. 0	1,800	23,400
Atá or wheat flour,	7. 0	10,000	70,000
Wines and liquors,	—	—	18,000
Miscellaneous Native goods,	—	—	2,500
Total,	—	—	1,576,483

Sentence continued from page 237.]

439 Colonel Lister, who filled the office of Political Agent from 1833 to
• 648 1854. In 1838, when Mr. Allen drew up his Report on the District, the trade both in lime and oranges was a monopoly of this Mr. Inglis. The stone is exported to Chhatik and other marts on the Surmá river, where some portion is burned and made into lime, and the remainder sold in the rough. The trade name in Bengal is 'Sylhet lime.'

439 The export of potatoes in 1876-77 was 100,300 maunds, valued
434 at Rs. 301,050, or £30,105, at the rate of Rs. 3. 8 per maund.

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ESTIMATE OF EXPORTS FROM THE KHASI AND JAINTIA HILLS FOR THE YEAR 1876-77.

ARTICLES.	RATES OF VALUATION.	WEIGHT OR NUMBER.	VALUE.
	Rs.		Rs.
Tejpát or bay leaves, betel-nuts and *pán* leaves, ...	a. 8 per *maund*.	18,000 *maunds*.	83,000
Black pepper, ...	—	—	95,600
Beans, ...	a. 8 per *maund*.	300 *maunds*.	3,000
Cinnamon, ...	—	—	7,000
Chillies, ...	4. 0 per *maund*.	900 *maunds*.	3,600
Cotton, ...	R. 0 =	2,800 *maunds*.	22,800
Fruits (jack and kaoi),	R. 0 =	36,000 *maunds*.	108,000
Garlic, ...	—	—	2,600
Hides, ...	—	—	3,100
Honey, ...	—	—	1,800
India-rubber, ...	15. 0 per *maund*.	350 *maunds*.	5,250
Iron ore (smelted), ...	40. 0 =	800 *maunds*.	8,000
Limestone, ...	—	—	7,000
Oranges, ...	300. 0 per 1000 *maunds*.	1,800,000 *maunds*.	480,000
Pineapples, ...	12. 0 per 1000.	2,400,000 No.	37,600
Plantains, ...	a. 8 per *maund*.	600,500 *maunds*.	300,250
Pine-apples, ...	—	—	8,000
Seed lac, ...	20. 0 per *maund*.	5,000 *maunds*.	100,000
Timber, bamboos, and canes, ...	—	—	30,000
Turmeric, ...	a. 0 per *maund*.	300 *maunds*.	1,500
Wax, ...	35. 0 =	80 =	1,430
Total, .	—	—	1,629,530

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Text continued from page 138.]

This price is about the same as it was twenty years ago, but the quantity has increased fourfold. The potato was first introduced into the Hills in 1830 by Mr. David Scott, who was then the Governor-General's Agent. 'No greater boon could have been conferred upon the people.' The local trade is entirely in the hands of the Khásis themselves, and the larger portion of the produce is despatched direct to Calcutta. According to the registration returns of river traffic in Bengal, the export of provisions (including vegetables) from Sylhet in 1876-77 was 103,108 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 369,324, or £36,932, at the rate of Rs. 3 per *maund*.

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The export of oranges in 1876-77 was 9,400,000 in number, valued at Rs. 37,600, at the rate of Rs. 12 per 3000. These figures apparently show a great decrease since 1858. At that time Mr. Inglis possessed the entire monopoly of the trade, by means of the leases which he held from the Khási Chiefs of all the valuable groves. The annual produce of his groves was estimated at forty-five millions of oranges, having increased from eleven millions within the

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previous twenty years. The oranges, like the lime, were brought down to Mr. Inglis' depot at Chhaták, where they were sold to the dealers at the rate of about Rs. 1. 12 per 1000, or less than half their present estimated price. It is stated in Mr. Allen's Report, that the Calcutta market was then chiefly supplied from the groves of Shella Púnjí and Bor Púnjí; the produce of the other villages was more perishable, and required to be sold in the neighbouring Districts. The fruit is known in Calcutta as 'Sylhet oranges.' The Bengal registration returns for 1876-77 show a total export from Sylhet of 64,505 *maunds* of 'fruit,' valued at Rs. 193,515, or £19,351.

The export of raw cotton appears to have greatly increased. In 1876-77 the total quantity exported was 36,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 216,000, or £21,600, at the rate of Rs. 6 per *maund*. Twenty years before the export had been only 12,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 42,000, at the rate of only Rs. 3. 8 per *maund*. The cotton is of inferior quality, with a short and woolly staple. It is chiefly consumed by the Sylhet weavers. The total registered export from that District in 1876-77 was only 4300 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 64,500, at the high rate of Rs. 15 per *maund*.

The chief article of import now, as twenty years ago, is rice; for the hill-men have never grown sufficient for their own consumption, and the recent establishment of the Civil Station of Shillong has increased the demand. In 1876-77 the total imports of rice were estimated at 205,800 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 720,300, or £72,030, at the rate of Rs. 3. 8 per *maund*. Twenty years ago the imports were nearly as great, viz. 150,000 *maunds*; but the value was only Rs. 225,000, at the rate of Rs. 1. 8 per *maund*, or less than one-half the present value. The chief source of supply is Sylhet District, which sends its surplus to the tea gardens of Cáchár, as well as to these Hills, and also exported, in the year 1876-77, 214,000 *maunds* of rice and 433,100 *maunds* of paddy into Bengal.

The importation of fish (fresh and dried) has enormously increased. In 1876-77 the total amount was 35,900 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 215,400, or £21,540, at the rate of Rs. 6 per *maund*. Twenty years ago the value was only Rs. 20,000, but the quantity is not given. The preparation of dried fish is a flourishing industry in the adjoining District of Sylhet.

The importation of cotton cloth has increased in an almost equal proportion. The value in 1876-77 was Rs. 158,000, or £15,800, as

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against Rs. 25,000, or £2,500, twenty years earlier. The supply of 439
piece-goods is derived directly from Dacca.

A curious feature in the trade of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills is 441
the total absence of Márwárí or Jain merchants—an enterprising class, who are found everywhere else in Assam, even to the farthest corners of the Brahmaputra valley. There are a few Bengálí traders from Dacca, who do not take up a permanent residence in the Hills; but the great bulk of the business remains in the hands of the natives, who themselves reap the profits and are said to be keen at a bargain.

The principal markets at the foot of the Hills, on the Sylhet side, 443
are Bholáganj, Chhaták, Lakhát, Jaintiápur, Jafling, Pharálbázár, Máodong, Ponatit, Sónápur, Molághul, and Lengjut. Many of these are situated within the Sylhet boundary; but they are all frequented by Khásí and Synteng traders, who spend their whole time in passing from one market village to another. The markets or *hát*s are held at regular intervals of eight days (for the Khásí week consists of this number), with the object of permitting the same people to visit the different places in rotation.

CAPITAL.—Such little capital as the people possess is either 454
employed in trade or lent out upon interest. In a few cases it is hoarded and allowed to remain idle. In small loan transactions, whether articles are pledged as security or not, the interest usually charged is one *dnná* in the rupee per month, or 75 per cent. per annum. In larger transactions the rate of interest per month varies from 2 to 3 per cent. Nothing is charged in the name of interest where lands are mortgaged as security for a loan, as the land is always made over to the mortgagee in lieu thereof, and he is only bound to restore it on payment of the amount lent. In petty advances for agricultural purposes, part of the produce is given by the cultivator at something less than market rates in repayment of the amount borrowed. Limestone quarrying is the only industry in 316
the District carried on by European agency. 648

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.—The revenue realized from the 648
Khásí and Jáintiá Hills has increased considerably in recent years. 651
As the Khásí States are treated as semi-independent, the receipts from that portion of the District are altogether insignificant, with the exception of the dues levied from the lime quarries. The larger part of the revenue in Jáintiá is derived from the house tax. For 1835, when British authority was first established in the Khásí Hills,

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the total revenue is returned at £77, and the expenditure at £2061. By the year 1860-61, at which date the Jáintiá Hills were included, the revenue was £2194, and the expenditure was £4151. There has since been a large increase on both sides of the account, and the District now more than pays for the cost of administration. The budget estimate for 1870-71 calculated on a revenue of £6290, and an expenditure of £7853. In 1875, according to the figures of the Deputy-Commissioner, the revenue was £13,383, and the expenditure £9692. The Assam Administration Report for 1875-76 returns the gross revenue at Rs. 108,018, or £10,801, of which only Rs. 342 was derived from the land, and the total cost of officials and police of all kinds at Rs. 64,731, or £6473, showing an apparent surplus of Rs. 43,287, or £4328. This increase of revenue is the more satisfactory, considering that the Khásiás still remain practically untaxed.

Sources of Revenue.—The main sources of revenue are the following:—(1) Mineral revenue; (2) House tax. The mineral revenue consists of the rents derived from the lime quarries, which are leased for terms of years to the highest bidder at public auction after due advertisement. All such leases have to receive the sanction of the Chief Commissioner. In 1876-77 the total revenue from lime quarries was Rs. 67,266, or £6,726, 12s., being a decrease of Rs. 7892 on the previous year. The house tax is levied throughout the whole of the Jáintiá Hills, and in the British possessions in the Khásí Hills. The settlement is made with the head-man of each village, who is termed a *dolloi* or *sardár*. It is his duty to submit every year to the Deputy-Commissioner or subdivisional officer a list of the number of houses in his village, accounting for all changes since the previous assessment. Thereupon the Deputy-Commissioner or subdivisional officer makes the assessment according to the rate fixed for the village, which is either R. 1 (2s.) or Rs. 2 (4s.) per house, and submits the proceedings for the confirmation of the Chief Commissioner. In 1876-77 the house tax realized a total revenue of Rs. 13,714, or £1371, 8s., of which Rs. 10,654 came from the Jáintiá Hills. The land revenue is derived from a few petty estates lying at the foot of the Jáintiá Hills, which were transferred from the rent-roll of Sylhet District on the adjustment of the boundary between the hills and plains portion of Jáintiá. The settlement of these estates was made in 1856-57, for twenty years, in the same manner as the settlement of the other Jáintiá

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estates. In addition, there are a few small holdings at Jowái, in the Jáintia Hills, which have been settled, after measurement, under the Assam Settlement Rules for a term of ten years. In 1876-77 the total land revenue amounted to Rs. 223, or £22, 6s., derived from 24 estates. Other small items of revenue are derived from fisheries, forests, stamps, and excise. In 1876-77 the rent of the fishery *mahálls* was Rs. 3321, or £332, 2s.; forests produced Rs. 773, or £77, 6s., of which Rs. 652 represents fees on the exportation of timber from the Khási States to the District of Kámrúp. In the same year stamps yielded Rs. 16,121, or £1612, 2s.; but this total includes the sale of postage and telegraph stamps, as well as the sum credited for service stamps. Excise produced Rs. 1216, or £121, 12s. The stamps are sold at the Treasury; there are no licensed vendors. The excise laws are applied only within the limits of the Stations of Shillong and Cherrá Púnjí, and throughout the Jáintiá Hills. There are no licensed distilleries in the District, and the free manufacture of country spirit is permitted both in the dependent States and in British territory; what is manufactured is mainly for home consumption. In 1876-77 there were in all 18 licenses in force—4 for imported spirituous and fermented liquors, 1 each for *máhát* and *chandu*, 2 for *gánjá*, and 10 for opium. The Khásiás and Syntengs are not addicted to the use of intoxicating drugs, which is confined to the people from the plains residing on British territory.

COURTS, ETC.—In the year 1835 there were two Magisterial and Civil Courts in the District. By 1850 the number had risen to four, which continues to the present time. The maximum distance of any village from the nearest court is 65 miles, the average distance is 25 miles. In 1835 one European official was permanently stationed in the District; in 1850, two; in 1862 and 1869, again one. In the last-mentioned year the subdivision of Jowái was opened in the Jáintiá Hills; and there have since been two officers in the District, a Deputy-Commissioner at Shillong, and an Assistant at Jowái. The total number of magistrates is three. These figures, of course, are exclusive of the staff of the Local Government, which has been established at Shillong since 1874.

POLICE STATISTICS.—For police purposes, the Khási and Jáintiá Hills are divided into the three following *thánás* or police circles, with two outposts:—(1) Shillong, with an outpost at Nongpoh; (2) Jowái; (3) Cherrá Púnjí, with an outpost at Thária-ghát, at the foot of the southern hills.

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465 In 1835, when British authority was first extended to the Khásí Hills, the cost of maintaining the police, from the rank of *jamádár* or head constable upwards, was £45; and in 1840, £57, 16s. By 1860, when the Jáintiá Hills had been annexed, and a *thánd* opened at Jowái, the cost had risen to £480. In the year 1869 the strength of the regular police was 149 men in the Khásí Hills, and an additional 29 in Jáintiá.

In 1875 the police statistics of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills were as follow:—The force consisted of 2 inspectors on a salary of upwards of Rs. 100 a month, or £120 a year; 3 sub-inspectors and 13 head constables on a salary of less than Rs. 100 a month; and 113 constables on an average pay of Rs. 9 a month, or £10, 16s. a year. The total pay of subordinate officers amounted to Rs. 8340 or £834 a year; and the total pay of constables to Rs. 12,168 or £1216, 16s. Certain contingencies brought up the aggregate expenses to Rs. 24,969 or £2496, 18s. The total number of men of all ranks was 131. As compared with the area and population of the District, these figures show one man to every 16·49 square miles, or to every 153 persons of the population, maintained at a cost of Rs. 4. 1 or 8s. 1½d. per square mile, and of 2 *ánnás* 10 *pies* or 4¼d. per head of population. Of the total force, 1 officer and 13 men were employed to guard the jail, 3 officers and 23 men to guard the treasury and lock-up and to serve as escorts, leaving 14 officers and 77 men available for general duty.

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692 CRIMINAL STATISTICS.—The District of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills, like the other Hill Districts of Assam, is administered by political officers, under special rules framed under Act xxii. of 1869. Petty criminal cases are disposed of by the indigenous magistracy, and only cases of a heinous character are reported to the political officers. Similarly, civil causes are referred to arbitration, according to the indigenous system of village *panchdyats*; and the Deputy-Commissioner reports that this system, while affording equal justice to the people, tends to preserve them from the evil of litigiousness.

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178 In 1874 the total number of cases reported by the police to the political officers was 83, as compared with 63 in the previous year. In these 83 cases, 102 persons were arrested, of whom 71 were put on their trial; 61 persons, or 86 per cent., were convicted, and 10 were acquitted.

Though little serious crime exists in the Hills, yet the number of offences shows a tendency towards increase. The Report of the

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697 In addition, a total of Rs. 899 (£89, 18s.) was expended on jail buildings. The manufacturing account shows cash receipts amounting to Rs. 60, against an expenditure of Rs. 29, or a net profit of Rs. 31 (£3, 2s).

797 871 • 648 EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.—The management of education in the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills is entirely in the hands of the Welsh Calvinistic Mission, who first established themselves in the District about the year 1844. Though the Khásiás are naturally dull, and children are taken away from school before they have obtained more than a smattering of instruction, yet the perseverance of the missionaries has been rewarded by most satisfactory results. It is stated, in the Report of the Inspector of Schools for Assam for 1874-75, that 'a much larger proportion of the Khásiás know a little of reading, writing, and arithmetic than is the case, probably, in any other [562] District of either Assam or Bengal.' Female education, owing to the interest taken in this work by the wives of the missionaries, is also in a comparatively advanced condition. The missionary schools are largely subsidized by grants in aid from Government. The [212] teaching is conducted in English and in Khásí, the Roman character being used in both cases.

The following paragraphs are compiled from the Education Report for 1874-75, above referred to. In that year the total number of schools open in the District was 73, attended by 1666 pupils. As compared with the area and the population, these figures show one school to every 84·34 square miles, and one pupil to every 85 inhabitants. As compared with the total number of males under ten years of age, the number of boys only attending school (1322) shows one scholar to every 13·1. The total expenditure on education in the same year was Rs. 17,722. 11. 3, or £1772, 5s. 5d.; towards which Government contributed Rs. 10,443. 2, fees and fines produced Rs. 228. 5. 3, while the remainder (Rs. 7051. 4) was expended by the Missionary Society from its own funds. The average cost of educating each pupil was Rs. 10. 10. 4, or £1, 1s. 3½d.

648 797 872 PRIMARY SCHOOLS.—With the exception of the schools at Cherrá Púnjí, Jowái, Shillong, and Shellá, all the schools in the Hills may properly be classed as primary, though several are returned as middle vernacular schools. On this principle the total number of primary schools is 64, in 45 of which a little English is taught. These 64 schools had 1226 pupils on their rolls at the close of the year 1874-75, and an average daily attendance of 829, comparing

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favourably with an average attendance of 694 in the preceding year. Of the pupils on the rolls, 132 were professed Christians, 36 Hindus, and 1058 Khásiás. The total cost was Rs. 7127. 11. 6, or £712, 15s. 5d., towards which Government contributed Rs. 3246. The average cost of each pupil was Rs. 8. 7. 7, or 17s., of which Rs. 3. 14. 7 represents the share paid by Government. The chief failure among the Khásiás is stated by the Inspector to be in arithmetic. Four primary scholarships were awarded during the year by the Deputy-Commissioner, on the recommendation of the secretary to the Mission. These scholarships are of the value of Rs. 3 a month, or £3, 12s. a year, and are tenable for two years.

MIDDLE ENGLISH SCHOOLS.—There were four schools of this class during the year under report, with 397 pupils on the rolls, and an average daily attendance of 243. The total expenditure was Rs. 4581. 15. 9, or £458, 4s., towards which Government contributed Rs. 1478. 8; the average cost of each pupil was Rs. 18. 13. 7, or £1, 17s. 8d.

FEMALE INSTRUCTION.—The Khási and Jáintiá Hills is the only District of Assam, and one of the very few throughout all India, in which female instruction can be said to exist. During 1874-75 the number of girls attending the schools increased from 242 to 344, or by more than 42 per cent., showing 4·7 girls at school to every thousand of the female population, as opposed to ·4 in the Province generally. Of this number 24 were taught by Mrs. Hugh Roberts of Cherrá Púnjí, and 18 by Mrs. John Roberts of Shellá. During the year five of the girls were sent out as teachers, of whom one was placed in charge of the Shillong girls' school, which has 29 pupils.

NORMAL SCHOOL.—According to the classification adopted by the Education Department, the institution at Cherrá Púnjí, under the management of the Rev. Hugh Roberts, is described as partly 'Government normal' and partly 'aided English.' In 1874-75 the number of pupils on the rolls was 43, and the average attendance 39. There is a class of 10 girls, and of the 16 teachers turned out during the year, 5 were girls. The total cost was Rs. 4252. 6. 6, almost the whole being paid by Government. The average cost of each pupil was Rs. 109. 0. 7, or £10, 19s., of which Rs. 107. 2. 11 represents the share of Government. The following paragraph, quoted from Mr. Roberts' Report, illustrates what the missionaries have effected, and also the difficulties with which they have to contend:—'Cases have been brought to my notice during the past year

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of parents undergoing considerable privations rather than deny their children education; and in many families it has become a matter of ordinary routine to send the children to school. This only refers to the younger children; for after boys have attained their fourteenth or fifteenth year, their parents grow impatient for their pecuniary assistance. It is the custom among the Khásiás to inure very young children to work, so that they may earn enough to support themselves as soon as ever they can manage strap and basket. It is common for a boy to realize from ten *pice* to five *dunds* a day for his parents; and it is considered sufficient sacrifice for the latter to have kept him at school up to his fourteenth year.'

KHASI STATES.—The following is a list of the nineteen semi-independent Khásí States or Democracies, with the particulars of information that are available for each, taken from the Assam Administration Report for 1875-76:—

(1) BHAWAL or WARBAH.—Name of Siem, U Baman Singh, age in 1876, 16 years; approximate population of State, 369; estimated gross revenue—from market dues, Rs. 10; from *málikánd* on lime quarry, Rs. 16,000—total, Rs. 16,010, or £1601; products, rice, millet, *tezpát* or bay leaves, black pepper, Piper nigrum; minerals, lime.

(2) CHERRA or SOHRAH.—Siem, U Hájan Mánik, aged 42; population, 8060; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 7000; judicial fines, Rs. 150; *málikánd* on lime quarry, Rs. 200; *zamindári* holding in Sylhet, Rs. 1300—total, Rs. 8650, or £865; products, cotton, millet, betel-nuts, *pán*, oranges, black pepper, Piper nigrum, chillies, turmeric, ginger, and honey; manufactures, bamboo mats and bamboo baskets; minerals, lime, iron, and coal.

(3) SHELLA.—Wáhadáddárs, U Jitrái, aged 29, and U Rái Singh, aged 35, of whom the former can read and write both Khásí and Bengáli a little; population, 5511; revenue—from market dues, Rs. 300; judicial fines, Rs. 400—total, Rs. 700, or £70; products, oranges, betel-nuts, and pine-apples; manufactures, bamboo mats and bamboo baskets; minerals, lime and coal.

(4) KHYRIM or NONG-KREM.—Siem, U Kher Singh, aged 32; population, 20,504; revenue—from pension allowed by the British Government, Rs. 1800; market dues, Rs. 5000; judicial fines, Rs. 400; *málikánd* on lime quarry, Rs. 1900; contributions for State purposes, Rs. 1000—total, Rs. 10,100, or £1010; products, rice, cotton, millet, 'Job's tears,' caoutchouc, cinnamon, *sohphlang*

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253; revenue, *nil;* products, millet, oranges, betel-nuts, jack-fruit, pine-apples, chillies, and bay leaves; minerals, lime and coal.

These statistics give the following totals for the nineteen Khásí States or Democracies:—Population, 78,992; revenue, Rs. 49,856. 8, or £4985, 13s., of which Rs. 22,732. 8, or £2273, 5s., is derived from lime quarries. The aggregate area of these States is elsewhere returned at 3997 square miles.

SUBDIVISIONAL ADMINISTRATION.—The twenty-five fiscal divisions which constitute the Jáintiá Hills are regarded as forming a separate Subdivision, under the charge of an Assistant-Commissioner, whose headquarters are at the village of Jowái. This Subdivision dates from 1869, for which year the separate cost of administration is returned at £1091. The following statistics, referring only to the Jáintiá Hills, are taken from the Report of the Assistant-Commissioner for 1876-77; for the rest, all information is included in the preceding sections of this Statistical Account, which apply generally to the whole District of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills. In the year 1876-77 the total revenue of the Jowái Subdivision amounted to Rs. 12,713, or £1271, 6s., of which Rs. 10,654 was derived from the house tax. The total value of the exports from the Subdivision was estimated at Rs. 197,575, or £19,757, 10s., including 16,000 *maunds* of raw cotton, valued at Rs. 120,000, and 5490 *maunds* of lac, valued at Rs. 54,900. The total value of the imports was estimated at Rs. 345,600, or £34,560, chiefly cotton and woollen cloth from Bengal, valued at Rs. 81,000; silk cloth from Assam, Rs. 25,000; 15,000 *maunds* of rice, value Rs. 60,000; 6229 loads of dried fish, value Rs. 35,344; 5287 *maunds* of salt, value Rs. 37,009; 609 *maunds* of tobacco, value Rs. 44,872. These figures are compiled from reports submitted by the police stationed at Jarán, on the Jáintiápur road, and from information collected from the chief traders of Jowái. They show an apparent balance of trade against the Subdivision amounting to Rs. 148,025, or £14,802, 10s. The population of Jowái and the surrounding villages is 4502 souls.

MEDICAL ASPECTS—METEOROLOGY.—The climate of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills is mild and equable. At Shillong the thermometer within doors ranges from about 58° in December to 70° or 75° in the hottest months. Out of doors the dry bulb varies between about 38° in the cold weather and 80° in May and June. A temperature higher than 80° is seldom recorded. During the three years ending

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remarkably, and there are few indigenous diseases of any kind. Malarious fevers of local origin are unknown, and cholera never prevails in the Hills except when directly imported from the plains. Notwithstanding the excessive rainfall, the climate of Cherrá Púnjí also is pleasant and salubrious. The rainfall is confined in great part to the five months from May to the end of September. For the rest of the year the weather is mild and very equable, and in the winter months almost pleasanter than that of Shillong.

Small-pox is the chief scourge amongst the Khásiás. The faces of more than half the people are seamed by the marks of this disease. Strenuous efforts have recently been made to introduce vaccination, and with some success. Within the past three years nearly 5000 children have been vaccinated. The number of vaccinations in 1876 was 1309, as compared with 1628 in the preceding year.

Dysentery and bowel complaints generally prevail to a considerable extent; and, as at most other hill stations in India, the English residents at Shillong occasionally suffer from these diseases. Disorders of the liver are also not uncommon, usually affecting persons who have recently arrived from the plains, probably from unhealthy localities. When they have once passed through a short period of acclimatizing indisposition, most English residents at Shillong enjoy excellent health.

The *tarái* country lying along the foot of the Hills, especially on the northern side, is extremely malarious; and people passing through, especially pedestrians who travel without comforts and expose themselves to great fatigue, contract remittent fevers and agues of a severe type.

EPIDEMICS.—The following is a brief notice of some recent epidemics. Cholera made its appearance in the Hills in May 1869, travelling from the direction of Jáintiápur, on the borders of Sylhet. It only showed its presence by a few sporadic cases from time to time until the 11th July, when the disease broke out in an epidemic form among the police and in the jail. The police and the prisoners were at once moved into camp, and communication restricted as much as possible. These precautions probably had the effect of preventing the spread of the disease at Shillong. The epidemic lasted a week; it attacked twenty-four persons, of whom fifteen died. From Shillong the disease travelled southwards, the people deserting their villages as the plague broke out. In the

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731 pre-eminently filthy villages on the Cherrá Púnjí plateau the epidemic appears to have found a fitting home, for it stayed among them for a period of nine weeks and a half. The civil surgeon reports the deaths at Cherrá Púnjí and the surrounding villages to have amounted to about 175 out of a total of 232 cases. During the year 1876-77 hooping-cough and small-pox were prevalent in an epidemic form. In the Jáintiá Hills small-pox is stated to have caused 47 deaths, chiefly during the months of June, July, and August. Some fatal cases of hooping-cough occurred among the Khásí children in the village of Máokhar, near Shillong. The only two cases of cholera reported were in the Jáintiá Hills.

16 VITAL STATISTICS.—A general system of registration is not [659] attempted throughout the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills District. Statistics [648] of births and deaths are only collected among the inhabitants of the Stations of Shillong and Cherrá Púnjí, and in the selected area in the vicinity of Jowái, which comprises the following seven villages: —Jowái, Nongbah, Nartiang, Mynsau, Amwí, Ralliang, and Shampúng. This selected area has a population of 12,504. Each village forms a distinctly-circumscribed community, in which the statistics are readily ascertained and reported by the *dolloi* or head-man. The returns may be regarded as extremely close to the truth, both for births and deaths; and they thus furnish an approximate statement of the health of the entire Hills. In 1874 the total number of deaths in the selected area was 351, showing a death rate of 28 per thousand; the number of births was 431, or 34·4 per thousand. The total population of all the places in which vital statistics are collected is 15,458 persons, among whom 428 deaths were recorded in 1874, showing a death-rate of 27·6 per thousand, as compared with 27·3 per thousand in the preceding year. The deaths were thus distributed—24 from cholera, 296 from fever, 38 from bowel complaints, 2 from snake-bite or wild beasts, and 68 from all other causes. The mortality from fevers was the highest recorded throughout the entire Province. On this the civil surgeon observes:—'There are few local sources of malaria in the Hills. Many of the deaths from fever were probably due to typhoid, induced by the use of impure water and by the filthy state in which the 312 people live. There is no attempt at conservancy in a Khásí village. In Jowái, a good specimen of the class, the lanes and pathways are 364 strewn with excrement and house refuse. Drinking water is got 164 from wells in the heart of the village, fed by the drainage of the

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surface soil of the hills upon which the houses are built.' Cholera is attributed to importation from the plains.

SANITATION.—It has already been stated that the ordinary Khásí villages are absolutely destitute of any conservancy arrangements. The sanitary condition, however, of the Station of Shillong is described as 'good.' The natural drainage is excellent. Drinking water is obtained chiefly from hill streams, and on the banks of these streams conservancy regulations are enforced. The water is conducted into the town by means of an artificial water-course. Public latrines have been erected at suitable places inside the town. The staff of sweepers and *beldárs* keeps the roads and drains clean, and the surface generally free from pollution. The sanitary condition of the cantonment is reported to be very good.

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CHARITABLE DISPENSARY.—There is one dispensary in the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills—at the Station of Shillong. It was first opened in 1872, and considerable additions have since been made to the building. During 1874 a total sum of Rs. 775. 8, or £77, 11s., was expended on new constructions and repairs, towards which the European residents subscribed Rs. 329. There is now accommodation for 10 male and 3 female patients. In that year the total number of in-door patients treated was 44, of whom 9 died, giving a death-rate of 20·45 per cent. The number of out-door patients was 529, or an average daily attendance of 7·8. Of the grand total of patients of both classes, only 31 were females. The largest number of cases are classified under the headings of fevers and constipation and colic. The total income during the year was Rs. 1598. 13. 9, or £159, 17s. 8d., of which Government contributed Rs. 300 for salaries, and an additional Rs. 300 as a special allowance. The European subscriptions amounted to Rs. 869, as compared with Rs. 33 subscribed by natives. The total expenditure was Rs. 1187. 15. 6, or £118, 16s., leaving a balance in hand of Rs. 410. 14. 3. The chief items were Rs. 480 for salaries of medical subordinates, Rs. 160 for servants' wages, and Rs. 222 for dieting of sick. There were 53 minor operations performed during the year.

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The people of the District have no system of medicine of their own, and no native practitioners. Their sole remedies consist in divination and incantation. The only indigenous native drugs are chireta and wormwood. As stated in a previous paragraph, a small cinchona plantation was established by Government at Nongklao in 1867.

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